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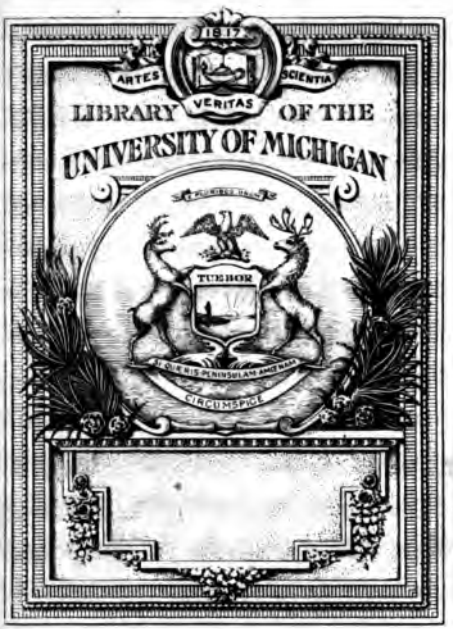
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TRAVELS IN COLUMBIA.

VOL. I.

G. WOODFALL, ANGEL COURT, SKINNER STREET, LONDON.

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TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

INTERIOR PROVINCES

OF

COLUMBIA.

BY COLONEL J. P. HAMILTON,

LATE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FROM HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLUMBIA.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

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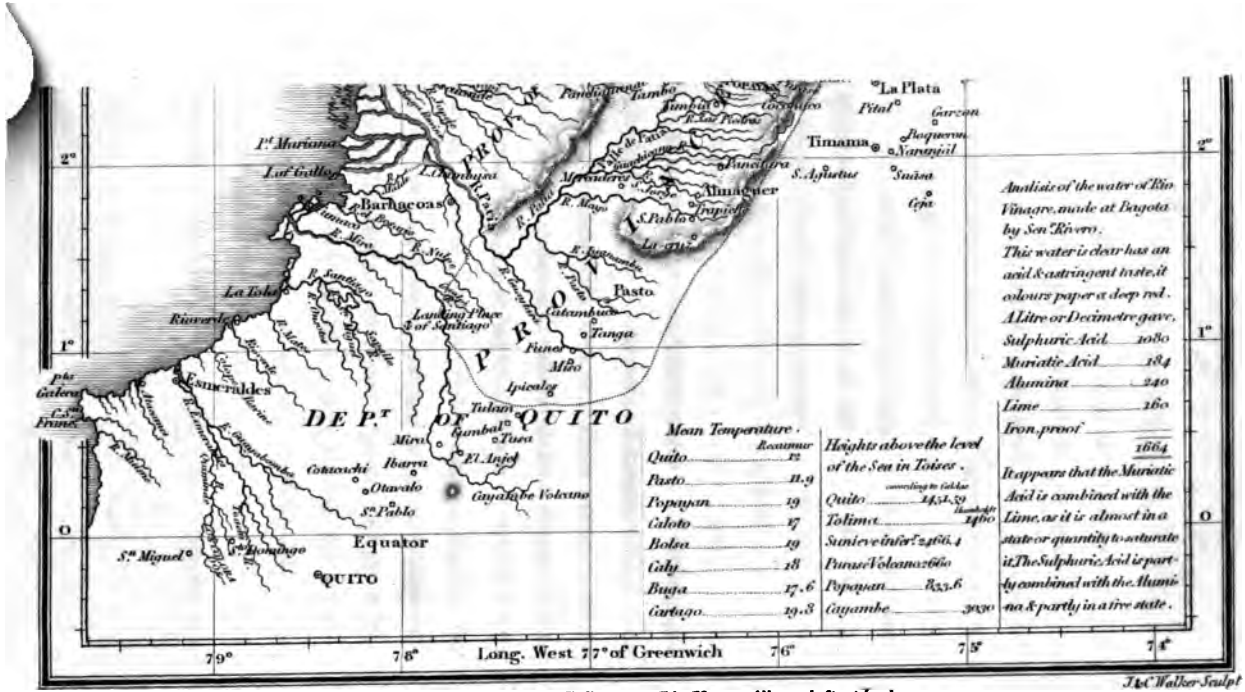

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TRAVELS

IN THE

PROVINCES OF COLUMBIA.

In the autumn of the year 1823, his Britannic Majesty's Government came to the determination of sending commissioners to Bogotá, the capital of the newly constituted state of Columbia. The commission consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of the Royal Artillery, Mr. James Henderson, now Consul-General at Bogotá, and the writer of the following narrative, whom Mr. Secretary Canning was pleased to appoint First Commissioner.

On the 20th of October, in the same year, in consequence of this appointment, I left London accompanied by Mr. Cade, who had been appointed

my private secretary, and arrived at Portsmouth, where the frigate Isis, commanded by Captain Thomas Forrest, C. B. was in readiness to convey the commissioners either to Carthagena or Santa Martha.

From one of these places we were to procced up the river Magdalena to Henda, and thence we were to travel by land to Bogotá. After remaining a week at Portsmouth, during which time, the town was unusually lively and gay in consequence of the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, who had arrived for the purpose of seeing the launch of a line of battle ship; and grand dinners were given by the Admiral of the Port, the Lieutenant-Governor, Naval Commissioner, &c. to which I had the honour of an invitation, on Sunday, the 27th of October, I embarked on board the Isis frigate, which was the flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Sir Laurence Halstead, K.C.B., who was going with his family to Jamaica, to remain there for three years, as Commander-in-chief in the West Indies. I was rather in low spirits when I found

myself on board the frigate; however, the general bustle, and busy faces of the officers and crew, assisted in driving away melancholy thoughts for the time, and the passengers were fully occupied in making themselves as comfortable for the voyage as circumstances would admit. The frigate was much crowded, as it carried out the Admiral and his family, the three commissioners, several consuls, and many naval officers about to join their ships in the West Indies. We sailed on the 28th of October from St. Helens, with delightful weather and a clear sky, which, as we advanced down channel, was succeeded by rain, baffling winds, vexatious calms, a great but unaccountable swell, the ship being, as we thought, much agitated, although the captain assured us, as usual, she was without exception the easiest and best sea-boat he had ever commanded.

30th October. A remarkable fall in an excellent marine barometer indicated an approaching storm; great consultations among the officers, the result of which was to make immediately for Torbay. This attempt to get into Torbay was baffled by a calm,

accompanied by a heavy swell. The silver in the barometer disappeared. The Admiral then decided to keep the sea, and proceed to the westward. Apparently much anxiety was felt by the captain as to some shoals off the Start point. The top-gallant-yards up and down several times, calm, rain and heavy swell continued until ten at night, when the gale came on with the suddenness of lightning, and before midnight the main and mizen top-masts were blown over the side, although the sails were furled; both quarter boats were also washed away, and the cabin window and dead lights burst in by the sea. At this time there was a serious alarm among the ladies, and Lady Halstead had a narrow escape from serious injury; her bedstead was upset, the securing cleats being broken from their hold, and her Ladyship thrown into the middle of the cabin, which was overwhelmed by a considerable quantity of salt water. At midnight, the Eddystone light-house was descried, a source of great comfort to all on board. I think this gale lasted about six and thirty hours. I never had such a

rolling before or since. I heard Sir L. Halstead say he had been baling the water out of his cabin nearly the whole night, and poor Lady Halstead received a tremendous shock, which she never recovered during the whole voyage. At one time it blew so hard that no sailor would venture aloft to cut away some wreck, until the second-lieutenant, a fine gallant young officer, led the way. This young man has since fallen a sacrifice to a hot climate.

There is nothing very interesting in a voyage to the West Indies. We had a good breeze which took us across the Bay of Biscay in fine style, and soon after that we were looking out for the trade-winds, which we were a long time finding. These winds usually prevail about 35° on each side the equator. We did not touch at Madeira, which I regretted, as well as many others, who wished to see the Island, but the officers went to lay in their stock of wine, which is considerably cheaper here than in the West Indies. The gale of wind and the salt water had made sad havoc among the letters, books,

maps, pots of honey, marmalade and pickles, &c. of the passengers; some of whom with rueful countenances complained of their losses and misfortunes. We found the temperature in the latitude of Madeira particularly pleasant at this period of the year, the thermometer being generally 70°. In this voyage I saw for the first time flying fish; and in their exertions to escape their enemies the bonito, albicore, and dolphin, they sometimes take flights of two or three hundred yards, until their pellucid wings becoming dry remind them that the water is their native element. The dolphin is a mortal foe to the flying fish, who escape from him with difficulty on account of his swimming with great rapidity. The flying fish are sometimes eight or ten inches in length. The stormy petrel is usually seen in the ship's wake skimming over the surface of the waves; this bird is called by the sailors Mother Carey's chicken. I was unable to learn the origin of this name. In passing the Tropic of Cancer, we had a visit from old Neptune and his wife Amphitrite. I escaped the usual ducking by bribing the marine

god with a guinea, but many persons on board got a severe sousing. I went through the disagreeable ceremony of being dry shaved. Neptune and his lady in retiring from the quarter-deck were by some accident upset, which made the Admiral, Lady Halstead, and all of us, laugh heartily.

On landing at Barbadoes, the commissioner waited on the governor Lieutenant-General Sir H. Ward, K.C.B., who welcomed us very politely, and invited us to dine with him the next day, which we declined, as we expected to sail early in the morning. Here Mr. Tupper quitted the ship, and remained at Barbadoes to get a passage to Laguira, where he was to reside as British consul. We sailed from Barbadoes in the afternoon of the day after our arrival, and saw the next morning the Diamond Rock, which is close to the island Martinique. In the last war this rock was fortified, and had a garrison of sailors of the same number as a sloop of war, with the respective officers. The sides of this rock are very steep, and its height is considerable. Notwithstanding the great obstacles, some naval

officers contrived to get some large guns to its summit, where they formed a battery.

From Barbadoes to Jamaica we had a fine passage, the trade-wind blowing rather briskly the whole way, and we anchored in Port Royal on Sunday the 9th of December, and landed at Kingston in the afternoon. In our walk to an inn we passed through the principal streets where most of the merchants transact their business; I was much disappointed in the appearance of them, as I had expected to see a handsomely built town. This is accounted for by almost all the principal merchants having their houses in the country at a short distance from Kingston, from which they come in the morning to their store-houses, and return home in the afternoon. Next day we waited on Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, who commanded the troops in the Island, and during our stay at Kingston we dined several times with him; he keeps an excellent table. At Kingston I met with an old friend, Lieutenant-Colonel Bowles of the Guards, who held the staff situation of Assistant Adjutant-General.

We had formerly been together at the Military College at High Wycombe. Two or three days after our arrival, the commissioners received an invitation to dine with the Duke of Manchester, the Governor of Jamaica, who resides at Spanish Town. I accompanied Colonel Bowles there in his tandem early in the morning, and passed a very pleasant day. We were shewn after dinner a fine collection of shells belonging to the Duke's secretary; many of the best were from the coast on the Pacific. The Duke of Manchester is very popular in the island of Jamaica, and I think deservedly so; he is of a mild disposition, and extremely anxious to promote the welfare of all classes.

At this time there was a good deal of ferment in the minds of the slaves, and many of the gentlemen of the island expected there would be a general rising of them on Christmas Day; in consequence of this, the militia were put on duty, but no disturbance took place. It appears to me that much has been done by the Government at home in the last five and twenty years to meliorate

the condition of the slaves in our colonies; but I conceive a total emancipation must also be the work of time, and requires, on the part of the Legislature, much caution and circumspection. As far as I was able to judge from the short time I was in the West Indies, the slaves possess many little comforts about them in their cottages, and are in general, I believe, well treated.

The heat of Kingston is dreadful, and the situation of Winter's Hotel, where we resided, low, which deprived us of some of the land and sea breezes. The former come on in the evening, and the latter about nine or ten in the morning. The thermometer in the shade at Kingston is generally 88°. We dined one day with Mr. Wilson, a most respectable merchant at Kingston, where I saw for the first time, on his table, a vegetable, produced on the top of the vegetable-palm tree, which grows to a great height; the tree is cut down to get the cabbage. I called at a watchmaker's at Kingston one morning, and saw a good assortment of preserved birds, quadrupeds, and insects, all obtained in the

island;—the collection was for sale. I likewise saw in his yard, alive, two alligators and a crocodile, the former taken in a river in the island, and the latter in the Nile. The crocodile was larger than the alligators, had a fiercer look, and his eyes were dark, whilst those of the alligator were of a sea-green. I purchased of the watchmaker an ant-bear quite tame, which came from the coast of Honduras. Mr. Bullock, the naturalist, had been residing for some time at Kingston, collecting fish, of which there were a great variety on the coast round the island.

On Christmas Day, Blue Peter was hoisted at the foremast of the frigate, and, after taking leave of Sir Laurence Halstead, his lady and family, we embarked in the afternoon on board the Isis, to go to Santa Martha on the coast of Columbia. In going in a boat from Kingston to the Isis, Jacko, the ant-bear, displayed his adroitness in catching fish; for several small ones having leaped into the boat, he seized them in a moment, and devoured them greedily. After a very rough passage the

Isis anchored in the port of Santa Martha on the 30th of December, to the great satisfaction of all the passengers.

On arriving near the Spanish Main, the view of the Cordillera de los Andes, at the back of Santa Martha, is grand and sublime, some of the mountains being of so great a height as to be at all times covered with snow toward their summit; their base is adorned with the finest trees and shrubs, clothed with perpetual verdure. Upon the frigate coming to an anchor, she saluted the Columbian flag, which was returned by the batteries on shore, after some delay, occasioned, as we imagined, by the scarcity of ammunition. As there is no inn at Santa Martha, we were at first rather puzzled where to fix our quarters, but, fortunately for us, Colonel Campbell met with Mr. Faribank, an American merchant, residing at Santa Martha, who very politely offered us board and lodging at his house for the few days we should remain in the town, until we could procure boats to convey us up the river Magdalena. We waited on Colonel Saida, the Governor of the

place, by birth a Spaniard, but a staunch patriot, who had suffered severely in the independant cause. The Governor received us with great kindness, and requested we would make his house our head-quarters. This we declined, but accepted an invitation to dine with him the next day. Colonel Saida had formerly served against the Spaniards in Mexico, where he was taken prisoner, and sent to Europe, and afterwards confined with an English colonel in the Fortress of Cuita on the coast of Africa. From the dungeons of Cuita they liberated themselves by working like moles for seven months, forming a subterraneous passage under the walls of the fortress. From what he related to me, they appeared to have run as many risks and as great perils as Baron Trenck, but their courage, patience, and perseverance were at last crowned with success. However their escape from the Fortress of Cuita was only to fall into the hands of the implacable enemies of the Spaniards, the Barbary Moors.—" Incidit in Scyllam, cupiens vitare Charybdin." Here Colonel Saida had the good fortune

to be released from bondage, being purchased by the French Consul at Tangiers for a few silk handkerchiefs, when he immediately returned to South America, entered the Columbian service, and was at this time in the high estimation of the President Bolivar. The Colonel possessed none of the quality of the Spaniard; "toujours gai, et vive la bagatelle" appeared to be his motto, with sufficient philosophy to care little about the ups and downs of this world.

The next day Colonel Saida entertained us with a most abundant dinner dressed according to the Spanish cuisini, which I have the bad taste not to admire, as garlic and rancid oil are predominant in most of their dishes. Between the first and second course, the guests generally saunter about for twenty minutes or half an hour, when, on their return to the dining-room, they find the table covered with puddings, tarts, dulces, preserved fruits, all of which are in general excellent, but, I suspect, bad stomachics, and equally bad dentifrices, which is too evident where the ladies of the new

world smile on you; but still they are pretty in spite of their teeth.

No town has suffered more during the sanguinary war carried on between Spain and her ci-devant colonies than Santa Martha, as, from its situation so near the mouth of the Rio Grande or River Magdalena, with which it communicates, by water, through the Cienagas, each hostile party was equally anxious to retain possession of the place; yet there are no fortifications round the town, only a fort or two at the bottom of the harbour, and a small rock fortified with a barrack which commands the entrance of the port. The population of Santa Martha has diminished considerably since the commencement of the civil war, and, at the time we were there, I was informed there were not more than three thousand inhabitants. The natives of this place had all along been remarkably inimical to the cause of liberty, consequently many of the principal inhabitants had been banished, and others sent to service in the army by the Columbian government.

General Morillo, who was living in the neighbourhood, gave a grand fête in the square at Santa Martha to all the troops, to commemorate the liberation of the country from the Spanish yoke. Each soldier had, in booths fitted up for the occasion, a bottle of St. Julian claret, a pound of beef, plenty of vegetables, and dulces, of which all classes are passionately fond. The General, I am told, loves a bit of fun dearly, and, to gratify his goût in this way, he turned out into the square in the dusk of the evening, unknown to the soldiers and people, a young bull, who went prancing and bellowing into the midst of the mob. They took to their heels in all directions, knocking over, in their flight, tables, forms, glasses, bottles, and each other. The uproar and confusion beggared all description; but, fortunately, the joke was not productive of any mischief beyond a few cuts, broken shins, and bruises, and one or two premature accouchements.

General Morillo is descended from one of the most distinguished families in Caraccas. In early life he went to Old Spain, and served in the body-

guard of the king. On his return to his native country, he became most zealous in the cause for establishing the independence of the Spanish colonies; and during the desperate struggle between Spain and Columbia, important commands had been entrusted to him on the coast of the Republic. He afterwards commanded at the siege of Carthagena, which capitulated, after a long blockade, to the victorious arms of Columbia. The general's manners were remarkably polished; so much so that you at once perceived he had lived in the best society. He spoke French and Italian fluently, and English tolerably well, although he was generally unwilling to converse with the English in their own language. The talents of General Morillo are of a superior order, and in his military operations during the war he had displayed much foresight, prudence, decision, and bravery. But some of the authorities at Bogotá, when I was there, insinuated that the government were rather afraid of the general, as he was considered a restless intriguant, and on that account were glad to keep him on the coast at a dis-

tance from the seat of Government. He has since resigned the governorship of the provinces of Santa Martha, Carthagena, and Rio de la Vache, and is succeeded by General Bermudez. One blot stains the character of General Morillo—his determined passion for gaming, in the indulgence of which he will sit up for nights and days together. This passion will no doubt prove the bane of South America, if some decisive steps are not taken by the Senate and Congress to arrest its progress, and, if possible, to eradicate the poison from the minds of all classes of its inhabitants; for the ci-devant grandee, the gentleman, the mechanic, the Indian, and the Negro, are all equally addicted to this fascinating vice. One of the favourite games amongst the lower orders is called, "Mas diez." You frequently see the tables belonging to this game in the squares during the carnival; they have pockets all round numbered to 22; a ball is thrown round by the player, which, if it enters a pocket above No. 10, is to the advantage of the owner of the table, if in that, or any one below that number, the

player is paid, which gives the owner of the table an advantage of two pockets.

The currents of wind arising in the Andes, which blow from the S.E. prevail during the months of December and January at Santa Martha, and while we were in that place (which is built on a sandy soil) were most annoying to the eyes; for the heat is so great, that the houses are constructed without windows. A south-easter therefore soon fills them with a fine white sand, which covers all the furniture; the dishes at meals also partake of this piquant addition. This misery, added to those of mosquitoes, swarms of flies, centipedes, scorpions, and occasionally a visit from the yellow-fever, is a great drawback from fixing upon Santa Martha as a residence.

Eventually, Santa Martha must become a place of considerable trade and traffic, from its advantageous situation on the coast of the Atlantic, particularly if the intended project of opening a water communication between Carthagena and the river Magdalena should not succeed. Music and dancing

are the favourite amusements of the inhabitants of Santa Martha, and in all the towns on the coast every evening you hear the merry guitar and light foot moving to its sound; and the host and hostess of the house receive strangers very kindly, when they feel inclined to walk in, to dance or look on.

The women have fine eyes and are in general well made, but their complexions are swarthy, and their teeth—even those of the young women—decayed, caused, as I have before hinted, by their constantly eating sweet things. Many of the inhabitants have an infant Jesus on an altar-piece, which is lighted up in the evening with wax candles, and ornamented with flowers and shells; the latter of which are found of a beautiful form and colour on the coast near Santa Martha. All persons are allowed to walk in and out during this religious festival. About three quarters of a mile from the town, there is a fine clear stream, which affords to the natives the double luxury of a wholesome beverage and delightful bath.

This place was attacked and taken by about 350

Indians, in January, 1823, and they retained possession of it for about 18 days. Pugeal, a Spaniard, commanded the Indians in this attack; he was afterwards taken prisoner by the patriots, and sent to Lima to serve as a common soldier, although at that time above sixty years of age; he had been formerly governor of the department of the king of Spain. The Indians plundered every house in the town, excepting the custom-house, and the store-houses of one or two rich merchants, which were kept as a bonne-bouche for the Spanish general Morales, then in possession of the fortress of Maracaibo. At the time Santa Martha was taken by the Indians, it had for its defence only a small number of the local militia, many of whom were very lukewarm in the cause of independence. While we were there the garrison consisted of a regiment of infantry of the province of Antioquia, commanded by Colonel Rastrapo, brother of the Minister of the Interior.

On Sunday the 4th of January, we were ready to start for the cienagas or lakes, having hired of Mr. Faribank a large covered boat, and a large canoe,

to convey us and our baggage to the town of Mompox, and having laid in the necessary stock of biscuits, rum, dried salt-beef, poultry, chocolate, &c. By the bye, I recommend to all travellers going up the river Magdalena, not to forget their mosquito curtains, for these blood-sucking insects are a dreadful annoyance on this river, as I can vouch from dear-bought experience; having slept two or three nights without mosquito curtains, supposing at that time that the bite of this insect in America, was not more venomous than that of the mosquito in the Mediterranean. The bote, or barca, is a regularly built decked vessel, its length is sixty-two feet six inches, eleven feet broad; length of covered top, seventeen feet; complement of men, one pilot and steersman, one cook, and ten men to pole. The large canoe called bongo, is made of a tree hollowed out with instruments; length, forty-two feet; breadth, six feet two inches; complement of men, one pilot, one cook, and five men with poles.

Mr. Consul-general Henderson arrived at Santa Martha with Mrs. Henderson and his family, but

remained behind for want of boats. All our servants, excepting one of mine, having gone with our baggage the day before in the bongo and piragua by sea, to enter the lakes which communicate with the river Magdalena at the Quatro Bocas (four mouths), on the Sunday afternoon, the governor, Colonel Saida (who insisted on accompanying us to the Indian village of Guava, about two leagues from Santa Martha), Colonel Campbell, Mr. Cade, and Mr. M'Leland (a partner of Mr. Faribank's), myself and my servant, left Santa Martha on horseback, escorted by a detachment of huzzars and lancers, for the large Indian village La Cervanos, where we were to meet our boats. This escort was rendered necessary, as some of the neighbouring Indian tribes were still in arms. The dress of these hussars and lancers was a novel sight to an European; they wore helmets covered with bear-skin, red jackets, white trowsers, but no boots; the leg bare, the soles of the feet covered with sandals, and very large spurs. We were opposed during the French Revolution in 1794, to sans-culotes, but I

never before saw cavalry sans bottes: their horses are small, but active and equal to much work. La Cervanos is seven Spanish leagues from Santa Martha, and we found some parts of the road very rocky, steep and bad, particularly on the coast, where we were obliged to ride over large masses of rock during the night. Colonel Campbell's horse fell with him, but he fortunately escaped unhurt. At Guava we bade adieu to Colonel Saida, thanking him most cordially for all the kindnesses which he had shewn us during the few days we staid at Santa Martha. The first three or four leagues of our journey we passed through fine forests, valuable on account of the variety of dye-woods which are brought from them to Santa Martha for exportation to Europe. We crossed several small rivers on our way to La Cervanos; and, as young travellers in the New World, were rather alarmed on being told by the hussars, there were alligators on some of the streams. I recollect perfectly well, keeping my legs and knees up like the tailor riding to Brentford, and looking sharp right and left, expecting every minute to see

the wide jaws of these voracious monsters appear above the water; but afterwards, in ascending the river Magdalena, we were familiarized to the sight of alligators of a monstrous size, though I must confess I never had the honour of riding on the back of one of them *, nor did I ever feel inclined to do so. On this journey I was particularly well mounted, through the kindness of Colonel Reenboldt, who lent me a fine active horse. The Colonel was a Hanoverian by birth, and had formerly been some years in the British service; at this time he commanded a remarkably fine battalion called the chasseurs of the guard, then in garrison at Carthagena. He was now on his way from Carthagena to Maracaibo, "pour faire l'amour" to a pretty girl, whom he afterwards married: to get at this fair prize, he had to encounter as many perils and dangers as most knights-errant of yore.

To reach Maracaibo by land from Santa Martha, it is necessary to pass through the country belong-

* See Waterton's "Wanderings in South America."

ing to a powerful tribe of independent Indians called the Goahiras, who possess the coast a few leagues to the eastward of Santa Martha, toward Rio de la Hacha, and who allow no stranger to traverse their territory, without immediately commencing hostilities. Colonel Reenboldt told me he had a faithful guide with him, and that their plan was to travel by night only, and in the day to remain concealed in the thick gloom of the forests, as the Indians never move during the night, but are always on the alert at day-break. The Colonel arrived safely at Maracaibo,—"omnia vincit amor,"—and received the reward so justly due to him for his constancy and courage.

Colonel Reenboldt is considered one of the best officers in the Columbian service, and had distinguished himself at the head of his fine battalion of sharp-shooters on several occasions, particularly in an action with the Indians near the lakes, in January 1823, when General Morillo commanded the Columbian forces.

As I before stated, the Goahiras Indians are in

possession of a considerable tract of coast on the Atlantic, from a little to the eastward of Santa Martha to Rio de la Hacha, and to Cojoro, in the Gulph of Maracaibo, and in the interior it also extends for many leagues. It appears singular that this nation of independent Indians should never have been conquered by the Spaniards, surrounded, as they are, on all sides by the Creoles who inhabit the provinces now forming part of the republic of Columbia. I have heard that it was the policy of the Spaniards to allow the Goahiras Indians to remain independent, by which means they prevented the inhabitants of some of their provinces from having any communication with each other; however this is problematical.

The population of this country is supposed to be forty thousand, and can send into the field fourteen thousand men, well armed with fire arms, spears, and bows and arrows; the arrows are poisoned. A considerable trade is carried on by the Goahiras nation with the merchants of Jamaica, and they exchange mules, sheep, pearls, dyewood, and skins,

for rum, brandy, ammunition, and trinkets. They also trade with the town of Rio de la Hacha. Their caciques, or chiefs, are distinguished by a warlike head-dress, made of the skin of a tiger, with the teeth fixed in front, and the skin adorned, at the top, with the gaudy feathers of the macaws and parrots. The present government of Columbia wishes all vessels to trade with the Goahiras Indians, to call either at Maracaibo or Rio de la Hacha, to obtain permission to land on the coast, and pay a small duty on their freight, as the Columbians are not in possession of the country. I should not think the Jamaica merchants will readily comply with this order of the Columbian government.

We arrived at La Cervanos de la Cienaga about two o'clock in the morning, much fatigued; we were in bad training, in consequence of having been so long cooped up on board ship. That part of the village where the troops were stationed was well secured with temporary fortifications of high palisades, a mud wall with holes in it, and a chevaux-de-frise, to prevent the garrison being sur-

prised by the Indians, who had attacked the village twice in the course of the last year or two; and once carried it by storm in a most determined manner, killing the greater part of the garrison.—The garrison now consisted of 100 men, of the battalion of Antiocha, and a detachment of huzzars and lancers. The village at this time contained about 2000 Indians, but it had decreased more than one half during the war, from the number of men they had lost in supporting the cause of the King of Spain. An Indian chief had been taken prisoner about ten days before we arrived, and was immediately shot, as no quarter was given either party, and I was told by the officers he died with the greatest sang-froid.

The first night passed at La Cervanos was most uncomfortable; having neither bed nor mosquito curtains, we were completely at the mercy of the mosquitoes, which abound near all lakes in warm climates, and were almost devoured. This I considered as a sort of seasoning to the party—certainly a sharp one to my young secretary, who had been

always employed in the Foreign Office, Downing Street, but who bore it very good humouredly,—and a prelude to one of the comforts we were to experience in going up the river Magdalena to Honda, about 800 miles. Colonel Campbell and myself, being old soldiers, had no right to complain. The commanding officer of the detachment was married, and had his wife with him, a pretty young woman from Carthagena. He gave us a very good breakfast, after the fashion of the country; thick chocolate, scraped salt-beef and eggs fried, together with plantains and some tropical fruits. After the repast we rose, and lounging about the fort I was accosted in English, to my great surprise, by four soldiers, who had been several years in the Columbian service, and were now belonging to the battalion of Antioquia; two of them were from Ireland, one from High Wycombe, Bucks, and the fourth from Yorkshire. That the three former should be serving in South America was not wonderful, but that a Yorkshireman should have been found there was rather astonishing. I should have doubted the

fellow's story had it not been backed by a strong Yorkshire brogue. These men complained that they had often a belly-full of fighting, but not so of victuals, and that the government owed them a considerable sum for pay and arrears; could they have obtained these, they would have quitted the Columbian service immediately, having by this time ascertained that campaigns in the immense plains of South America are no joke.

In the yard of the commandant I saw several English game cocks fastened by the leg, with a string long enough to give them a small range. The Columbians are particularly fond of cock-fighting, and carry this passion to such a height that I have heard of bets to the amount of 30,000 dollars on a single cock-fight. In my subsequent travels I met Indians 1500 miles in the interior of the country carrying English game cocks in small cages, on their backs, over the mountains, for Columbian gentlemen. The cock is armed with English steel spurs, which are worth three dollars a pair. A new double barrelled gun and a pocket compass of

Colonel Campbell's were much admired by the officers.

On Monday Colonel Campbell and myself walked down to the lake with our guns; we killed five large birds of the plover species, a beautiful ground dove the size of a thrush, and a kite whose plumage was very fine. We saw a great variety of water fowls, but could not get at them, the sides of the lake being swampy. Being anxious to preserve the ground dove for stuffing, I endeavoured to skin it according to the rules of the art. In this operation I succeeded tolerably well, although much annoyed by sand-flies and mosquitoes, but having no small box to put the bird in, I found the next morning hundreds of small white ants feeding on the skin, and therefore considered my endeavours to preserve the skins of the birds hopeless. We admired, exceedingly, the lakes, whose expanse of water is chequered with well wooded islands, and whose banks are covered with the mangrove, which grows to the height of seventy or eighty feet. In the back-ground you see, towering to the clouds, a

branch of the Andes, which runs to Santa Martha, towards the Caraccas: many of these summits are perpetually covered with snow. What particularly strikes the senses of the traveller in the New World is, the gigantic state of Nature—mountains of immeasurable height, plains, forests, rivers, and lakes, unbounded in extent and expanse; and the attention is occupied every moment with something new, in the colours, shape, and appearance of the birds, beasts, insects, trees, and shrubs of this extraordinary country.

As the mosquitoes had annoyed us so much the preceding night, we resolved to retaliate on them the next evening, by arming ourselves with cigars, the smoke of which proves an overmatch for these persevering troublesome insects. Smoking in South America has also another strong recommendation, in keeping off intermittent and other bad fevers, which often arise from sleeping near savannahs, and large pools of stagnant water. I attribute to this habit of smoking, my having never been attacked by fever in my travels in South America, Sardinia,

Sicily, or with the army in Spain. The traveller should never proceed on his journey early in the morning without a schnapp (small glass of brandy, taken by the German soldiers), or a dish of strong coffee, without milk, and a few cigars in his pocket, which can be generally lighted from the stumps of burning trees in the wood.

Our boats had now safely passed the bar on entering the lake from the Atlantic, which passage is often accompanied with danger when the wind sets in strongly from the sea, and sends a heavy surf over the bar. We anchored at Pueblo Viejo, about two miles and a half from La Cervanos de la Cienaga, where I saw for sale the large black wild wood-turkey, good for the table, and the paujay, or wild hen, of the shape and size of a pheasant, body black, tail fringed with white, and a black top-knot, the flesh of which is likewise considered a dainty. There were running about the village several nasty looking dogs, without hair, about the size of a spaniel. It might certainly be a great comfort to the animal, in this warm climate, to be without his coat,

but his déshabillé did not become him. A sad accident had just occurred on board one of the small traders that carry provisions from the interior down the river Magdalena, across the Lakes to the coast. Her cargo consisted of fat hogs, which were so closely stowed, and had so little air below, that when they arrived at Pueblo Viejo, two-thirds of the poor pigs were found suffocated. As there is no time to be lost when the thermometer is generally between 80° and 90°, we found the owner, and one or two assistants, on shore, cutting up and salting the pork of these premature sufferers, for the inhabitants of Santa Martha; so that it appears that the inhabitants of large towns in America consume the best and the worst, as the inhabitants of our own immense metropolis.

Near to Pueblo Viejo, I was shewn the ground where a very severe action had been fought between the Columbian troops, commanded by General Cariguan, now Governor of Panama, and the Indians, natives of these two villages, and a few Spaniards, in 1820, under General Porrus, a Spaniard, the

Governor of the Province. The Indians defended themselves in their position in a most desperate manner, and lost nearly one thousand men, who were killed by the bayonet and lance, and, on examining their bodies, all their wounds were in front. This anecdote was related at my table by the Honourable Pedro Geral, Minister for French Affairs at Bogotá, who had been on the ground after the action. Such devotion to the cause of the King of Spain, and such determined bravery, must be admired by every one, whatever his political sentiments may be. The next day, having only four hundred men, they attacked the Columbians with their usual bravery, but were repulsed, owing to the smallness of their numbers. At this time we saw very few young men at the villages; the population consisted of old men, women, and children. Their houses were built of mud and bamboos, and thatched with palm-leaves. We met with an Indian who had been in England, and spoke a little French and English. His countrymen looked up to him as a prodigy. Some Indians were on the Lake in their canoes, fishing with

nets, which appeared to me exactly like our casting-nets, and they threw them nearly in the same manner. I purchased in this village two toucans, in a large bamboo cage, for two dollars and two rials; they were fine young birds. The toucan abounds in the province of Santa Martha and Carthagena, toward the coast, but I never saw them in the interior of Columbia. It is generally supposed the toucan lives on fruits, seeds, &c. and is not carnivorous, but a bird-seller in London assured me he had one alive for nearly a year and a half, which he allowed to hop about his shop, till he found he had devoured a piping bulfinch, which had escaped from his cage, and from that time he frequently fed him upon dead birds.

Mr. M'Leland having purchased some additional stores for us, we took leave of him, and embarked in our boats on Tuesday, Jan. 6th. At this time, two o'clock, P.M. the thermometer was 87° in the shade. In passing near the Quatro Bocas, we saw four alligators, the first we had seen; Colonel Campbell shot at a large one, with swan shot, but

their scales are so hard, covering each other, that the pellet had not the slightest chance of penetrating into the flesh. I was surprised at seeing alligators at this part of the Lake, as the water was brackish, and I had previously supposed they were found only in fresh water rivers and lakes. Soon after this, we were much alarmed by one of the Indians jumping overboard after a pole that he had dropped, and expected every moment to see the poor fellow seized by an alligator; but he soon obtained his object, and got on board again. I imagine the noise the Indians and Negroes make by singing, and the splashing of the long poles in the water, alarm the alligators, and keep them away from the boats. An hour or two after this, my favourite pointer, Don, tumbled overboard, and I gave him up as lost; but by the exertions of one of the negroes, to whom I promised a dollar, Don was restored to me, and is now alive and well in England. We found Jacko, the ant-bear, which I purchased in Jamaica, most useful in the boat, in killing cockroaches, white ants, spiders, &c. These

insects incessantly attack your provisions, and are particularly troublesome. Unluckily Jacko had an aversion from all the canine race; consequently perpetual war was waged between him and Don, which at last proved fatal to Jacko, as I was obliged to have him killed, although with great regret. Soon after my arrival at Bogotá, he had nearly terminated Don's career, by a desperate bite in the neck. I have read in some authors that the ant-bear has no teeth; my old pointer would tell them a different story—they bite as sharp as a badger, and their feet are armed with long strong claws.

We had little or no wind for sailing. I heard our black, copper, and swarthy coloured men supplicating St. Juan for a favourable breeze. The lakes have seldom more than twenty feet depth of water, and on an average six or seven feet. Our longest boat drew about two feet and a half water, and the smallest, one and a half. We dined at six, on the cubi, or round deck, of the large boat, and drank the health of all our friends in England, in a bottle of St. Julien claret, and came

to anchor about seven, at a place called Menciado, by fixing long poles in the mud, and fastening the boats to them. Fine breezes at night, which kept off the mosquitoes, and we slept soundly on the deck, after having been so worried for two nights on shore. The bongo did not come up until six in the morning, and the patron, who proved to be a sad scoundrel, was reprimanded.

On the 7th, at seven in the morning, we entered the Bóca Caño Grande, not more than twenty yards in width, steering w. by s. We were then going about four knots an hour. Each Negro and Indian had a glass of rum early in the morning; and if you add to that a few cigars, the fellows work like galley-slaves for three or four hours. Cicero might have harangued these black boatmen without making the least impression, but the moment they see the cigars and demijohn of rum, their eyes sparkle, the merry song is soon heard, and the long poles move with rapidity, and great exactness. They are naked, with the exception of a piece of cloth round the waist, and a straw hat. Colonel Campbell shot

a beautiful milk-white heron or egret: on the back of this bird the feathers are found which adorn the heads of our European beauties. We saw a great variety of water-fowl, such as sandpipers, scarlet spoonbills, an excellent bird, flamingoes, and moor-hens, but they were shy of the boats. On passing the Bóca Caño Grande, we entered another lake, called Redonda, and then by the Bóca Sucia, a muddy channel, in the morning. Soon after this, Colonel Campbell saw two of the monas coleradas, a large red monkey, which makes a dreadful howling and grumbling during the night-time, but they were not within shot. The wild plantain and fig-tree grow on the borders of the lakes, and the flowers of some of the shrubs and creepers were of a most brilliant and beautiful colour. We drank some of the lake water this afternoon, at four, and found it quite fresh; and saw a large bird, called by the Indians tixerana, or scissor-tail. We entered the lake Caño Clarin this afternoon, and saw a great number of the red monkeys on the trees, but none within shot, excepting one which we wounded; it

did not fall, but kept hanging by the tail until we had hit him six times. We landed with much difficulty to get the monkey, when I expected we should have been devoured by the mosquitoes, millions of which were buzzing around us: on skinning and opening the monkey, the Indians and Negroes found young ones; but notwithstanding, I heard they had cooked this delicate morceau for supper: these fellows have the appetites of vultures, and the digestion of an ostrich. We remained for the night at the Caño Abrito, which was cool, and but little infested with mosquitoes.

Thursday, 8th, we started at five A.M. from the Caño Abrito, and saw in the morning a great many large green parrots; my gun missed fire several times, but I killed afterwards a blackbird exactly the size and shape of a magpie, with a long tail, high coloured eye, and ridge on the upper part of the beak. We entered the Caño de Solidad at eight A.M. the thermometer 79°, and arrived to breakfast at the Quatro Bocas. At the sand-banks of the Quatro Bocas, we found a family encamped; they had been there

some days waiting for a fair wind to pass the lakes of Santa Martha, having a cargo of rice, poultry, and plantains. A pretty mulatto girl of seventeen was one of the party, to whom I observed my young secretary particularly attentive; but ignorance of the Spanish language was a serious obstacle to love-making. Here we had to perform a disagreeable operation in being obliged to lighten the boats, by removing all the heavy baggage, and pass them over a sand-bank, which detained us some hours; and there was a desperate fight between Don and the ant-bear, in which Don got a bad bite in the tail, which was cured by one of the Indians putting salt and tobacco to the wound. The food of the Indians and Negroes is rice, plantain, and salt-beef, boiled together. At their meals, the boatmen's broad paddles, always made use of when they wish to cross the river, are washed and placed at the bottom of the champer, towards its head; the mess is then emptied, and divided into smaller messes for the men, who make use of their fingers. Most of the Begona have long cakes of sugar which serve as a

dessert. This day Colonel Campbell killed what we supposed at the time a large wild turkey, but we found afterwards that it was the Buytre de la Cienaga, or vulture of the lake. This bird was five feet and a half from the tip of each wing, legs long, red and very strong; plumage on the back and breast, black and gray, and white about the head, with two curved spurs, sharp at the point, about an inch long in the first joint of each wing, with which they strike with great force. The Indians having told us the buytre was good eating, we had it skinned and roasted for dinner; there is no accounting for taste, for I must say, I never before tasted any thing so tough, strong, and bad; and the Colonel and Mr. Cade having agreed with me in the same opinion, this proved a banyan day for the party. Just before we got to the river Magdalena, the boats ran aground, which obliged us to remain stationary for the night. We had not taken off our clothes since we embarked at Pueblo Viejo, nor seen a hut or man-being excepting the family before mentioned. The mosquitoes and sand-flies proved

very troublesome this night, as we were close to the shore. I saw a great many of the coquillo de candela about at night; they give a light like the glow-worm; they are also called lucerna.

On Friday, 9th January, we entered the Rio Grande or River Magdalena, a river of the first class, even in South America, where they have such mighty streams. The Magdalena appeared to me to be at this spot, about a mile and a half in breadth, and the water very muddy. Some gentle slopes of hills to the s.w. seven or eight miles off, had very much the appearance of the Sussex Downs. These were the first lands we had seen cultivated with cotton, maize, chocolate, and sugar-cane, since we had quitted Pueblo Viejo; they lay on the left bank of the river Magdalena, and in these parts much of the fine rich soil remains uncultivated, and covered with forests. Higher up the river we saw some large savannahs with a great number of horses feeding on them; in this neighbourhood there are likewise extensive dairy farms, the proprietors of which keep each two or three hundred milch cows, and

make from two to three arróbas * of cheese daily; a great part of which is sent to the towns of Carthagena and Santa Martha. The inhabitants residing near the river were in general Creoles, and we saw very few Indians or Negroes. Fowls are sold here for two shillings per couple. Colonel Campbell killed a green parrot with scarlet feathers in the wings, which proved to be fat and tender. The Spaniards blocked up the Bocadores de la Buega, which is the narrow water between the river Magdalena and the lakes, to prevent the Columbians attacking Pueblo Viejo and Santa Martha; this passage was forced, and the obstacles removed by patriot gun-boats.

Towards noon we arrived at the large village of Solidad, which is about half a mile from the Magdalena on its left bank, and communicates with the river by a natural caño or canal. We were kindly offered rooms to sleep in by a mulatto tradesman, and made ourselves comfortable with the luxury of

* An arróba is twenty-five pounds.

a clean shirt, after having been four days and nights without changing our clothes, in a tropical climate, thermometer in the shade at three P.M. 83°. We had a distant view of the village of Boraquilla, but deficiency of water hindered us from landing. Our letters of introduction were sent therefore by a messenger to Mr. Glenn, a respectable English merchant residing there. We saw a dead alligator lying on its back on the banks of the river; I conceive it must have been fourteen or fifteen feet long, and on account of its smell, became a most unpleasant neighbour. The banks of the Magdalena were beautiful, from the profusion of scarlet and lilac coloured flowers of the convolvulus kind, with which it was adorned.

At Solidad we met a black, named Louis Bramar, who had for three years played the kettle-drum in one of our regiments of life-guards. He spoke English very well, and had the situation of shopman to our landlord. We found him very useful, and among his other English qualifications and accomplishments, he informed us he had learnt the art of

making egg-punch in our country. We made trial of his skill, and partook of some of this beverage in the evening, which we found so excellent, that we requested Mr. Louis to give a lesson to our cook, Edle. Here we saw many horses and mules placed in large flat boats, to be washed all over; the only grooming these animals get, which however proves very refreshing after a journey. Horses, mules, and donkies, are equally fond of the pumpkin; their usual food is maize or Indian corn, in the warm countries. Mr. Glenn, brother to the merchant, rode over from Boranquilla to see us; he was on the half-pay of Meuron's regiment.

The Columbian government had granted to Mr. Elbers, a German merchant, the exclusive privilege for twenty years of navigating the river Magdalena with steam-boats. At this time a steam-boat of forty-horse power, had entered the Magdalena from the United States. This boat afterwards got up only a few leagues above the town of Mompox, and, from drawing too much water, could proceed no farther. It is much to be regretted that the Colum-

bian government should have given the exclusive right of navigating some of the principal rivers and lakes, viz. the Magdalena, the Oroonoko, and the lake of Maracaibo, to individuals; the ci-devant mother country is a striking example of the pernicious system of monopolies. These great water communications should have been open to the whole world, and had that been the case, I am sure by this time, the latter end of 1825, several steam-boats would have been in full work on these rivers and lakes. If the government had been determined to give encouragement to monopolies, which are always disadvantageous to a commercial country, it would have been more advisable to have made contracts with respectable companies, who possess sufficient capital to remove any natural obstacle in the navigation of the rivers, &c.; such as large floating masses of timber, shallows, and sand-banks. The Magdalena is the great water communication to the provinces of Santa Martha, Carthagena, Antioquia, Maroquita, and Neyva, and conveys boats within three days' journey by land to Bogotá, the capital of the re-

public. I leave to those conversant in political economy, to judge whether this be a substantial reason for not giving any exclusive privileges.

Having laid in a fresh stock of dried shrimps, poultry, sugar, chocolate, orange-marmalade, and some strong Catalan wine, we sailed from Solidad on the Saturday, and passed the villages of Savannah, Grande Rey de Mollino, five and eight leagues from Solidad. The wild cotton-tree hanging over the banks of the river, with the pods full of cotton, ripe and bursting, had a novel and pretty appearance. We also observed the vanilla, the production of a creeping plant, entwining itself round the forest-trees, which had a pleasing effect; this plant thrives best in a moist soil, and a good deal of it was formerly sent to Spain, and made use of to give a flavour to the chocolate. The number of creepers separated and hanging from the lofty trees, have a singular effect in these large forests, and sometimes at a distance resemble small ropes of the yards of a man-of-war; and I have frequently found them so thick and interwoven with each other, as to be to-

tally impervious: some of them when in flower are particularly pleasing to the eye. A great many of the fruit trees are well adapted for inlaid work, and assume a variety of pleasing colours, when properly polished. I saw afterwards at Bogotá, specimens of cabinet work, as furniture in the houses of the higher class, which quite surprised me, the different coloured woods being inlaid with much taste and highly polished; but the Creoles work very slow, and probably a handsome toilette with drawers would not be finished in less than a year; and then you must advance the money to the cabinet-maker, as they have no capital. We saw the skeleton of a very large alligator, and Colonel Campbell shot a bird with a fine plumage, called the amarilla, or yellow-breast; the back was of a rich chocolate colour, breast bright yellow, and a beautiful scarlet tuft on its head, about the size of a black-bird: this bird has a pleasing note.

The river in this part had considerably diminished in breadth, and the current was stronger. Some of the cottages on the banks looked rural and

pretty, being shaded by the large evergreen foliage of the palma real or royal palm tree, towering up to a considerable height. In several places we observed a strong circular bamboo fence, erected on the margin of the river to protect the inhabitants from the alligators, which abound in such numbers in the Magdalena. Notwithstanding these precautions, they now and then contrive to carry off a person. We heard at Barranca that a young mulatto girl, about fourteen years of age, had been seized by the wrist, while in the act of filling her pitcher in the river, and carried under water by one of these creatures. Whenever the alligators have tasted human flesh, they become particularly fond of it, and are bold and fierce in their attacks on the human species. The natives being aware of this circumstance, leave no means untried to catch an alligator that has carried off a person, which is the easier accomplished, as this amphibious monster is voracious like the shark, and has his particular haunts which he seldom forsakes.

My secretary and myself, having got into the

canoe, out-sailed the brique during the night, and passed a sleepless one from the desperate attacks of the different species of mosquitoes which infest the banks of the Magdalena. About three in the morning we anchored at the small village of Ponto Corvo, and were heartily glad to escape, on shore, our persecutors, the mosquitoes, as the covered part of the canoe was swarming with them. Here we slept on the ground for three or four hours till the brique arrived, and we found that Colonel Campbell had done penance during the night as well as ourselves. I purchased a fine green parrot at this place for three dollars, which spoke a few sentences in Spanish remarkably plain, and was a good patriot, as was shewn by his calling out " Bolivar ", and constantly saying, " Viva la Colombia", " Viva la patria y noda par las Espagnoles." This bird I brought afterwards to England, and he died in the winter of 1825.

This day, Sunday, the 11th of January, at one o'clock, we passed Piqua, a small town on the right bank of the river, and saw a flock of the gallinacio, a small black vulture, feeding on the carcase of a dead

alligator, and some prodigiously large campano trees in the forests. Near the village of the Curé de San Antonio, we observed large rocks, and great shoals of small fish, which were frequently jumping out of the water;—we conjectured that they were pursued by alligators. Mountains were visible bearing about s.w. We were then steering due s. Thermometer in the shade this day 86°. Colonel Campbell shot a dove-coloured heron, about half the size of the heron of this country, with bright scarlet round the eye, and yellow legs.

There are several islands on this part of the river, all covered with lofty trees and beautiful shrubs, particularly the mimosa. The soil appeared uncommonly rich and fertile; in some parts fifteen feet in depth. The bejucio, a creeper, grows in these forests, which is so strong and tough that the natives use it to fasten together the rafters of their houses, and the bamboos for the covering of the champans, or long flat-bottomed boats, with which they navigate the Magdalena from the town of Mompox to the interior provinces. We saw seve-

ral red monkeys in the trees, and a pair of guacamayos, or large scarlet macaws.

We slept this night at the large village of Barranca Nueva, on the left bank of the Magdalena, at the house of the postmaster, which was the best lodging we had had since we left Mr. Faribank's house at Santa Martha. Barranca Nueva is a thriving place, in consequence of a considerable proportion of produce which is brought down the Magdalena, being landed here and carried on mules to Carthagena; and the same conveyance takes place from Carthagena to Barranca, of dry goods, wines, &c. which are landed from Europe, the United States, and Jamaica. There is a natural canal between Carthagena and Barranca for flat-bottomed boats during the rainy season,—three months. An engineer has surveyed the ground between the places, and it is expected that the water communication will be kept open the whole year at a moderate expense. The grounds were cleared for some distance round this village, and it stands high, in consequence of

which you have a fine view of the Magdalena above and below the village.

At this place Mr. Consul-General Henderson had the misfortune to lose his son, a fine youth of seventeen, about three weeks after we left. He was bathing, and I believe it was never well ascertained whether he was drowned or carried off by an alligator. Only a man-servant was with him at the time, who gave a very confused account of the transaction, and behaved, I understand, in a dastardly manner in deserting the poor young man. Opposite to Barranca Nueva was an island, which appeared a favourite spot with the red monkeys, from the great noise they made there all night. In the afternoon, the postmaster and about twenty or thirty men and women mounted on horses and mules, returned from a dance they had been attending in a village about two leagues off. The ladies rode astride with their petticoats above their knees. The population of Barranca Nueva consists of one thousand souls. We all enjoyed a refreshing bath in the evening in a

shallow part of the river, having a servant to keep a sharp look-out after the caymans or alligators. The Carthagena mail gets from Barranca Nueva to Honda, a distance of about 800 miles, in fifteen days. It is conveyed in a light long canoe with four men, which is propelled, by poles, up the river night and day, one man poling, another steering; and thus they relieve each other every six hours.

The 12th, at half-past six, A.M. we left Barranca Nueva. The postmaster had received a letter, that morning, to announce that two members of Congress, sent from Panama, would be at Barranca Nueva in six days, and desiring that twenty horses and mules should be sent to Carthagena for the conveyance of themselves, suite, and baggage. Just as we were embarking we met Colonel Johnstone and another Irish officer; the former had been five years in the Columbian service, and had fought in most of the general actions against the Spanish general Morillo, and had been severely wounded. As field-officer in the battalion of Albions, formed of British soldiers, the Colonel had retired on half-pay, and

was on his way to England. Officers retiring from the Columbian service, not having been wounded, receive one-third of their pay. Colonel Todd, the ci-devant Chargé d'Affaires from the United States of the Republic of Columbia, was here, going back to North America, but we did not see him.

As we were gliding up the river with a nice breeze, near the shore, I shot a guana, four feet and a half long from nose to tail, of the lizard kind. The patron told us it was considered a delicacy for the table, it was therefore delivered over to Edle, the cook, to fricasee for dinner, with sauce blanche, and we thought it excellent, being fat and as white as a chicken. Colonel Campbell and myself went with our guns in the canoe, as it drew less water, and shot three large scarlet macaws. We landed and walked to a small lake, which the Indians told us was frequented by wild fowl. On our way we saw several of the large black wild turkeys in the trees; I got a shot at one, and wounded it, but it contrived to get away. Colonel Campbell killed on the lake, where we saw great variety of wild fowl, a dun-co-

loured curlew, with a curved beak five inches in length. On a pole by the side of the river, was placed a tiger's head, that appeared to have been recently killed, his teeth were long and large, and he had a most terrific grin. We walked to a cattle-pen, which was strongly fenced in with large bamboos to prevent the wild beasts getting at the stock. In a cottage adjoining we found a woman of colour busily employed in making cheeses of milk that had not been skimmed; we relished exceedingly a draught of her whey, as we had found it intensely hot, walking through places where the air is excluded by the thick foliage of the trees and shrubs. In this cottage we saw the pica or long lance with which they drive the bulls, which being almost wild are very fierce. We were always very cautious in our sporting rambles where we trod, on account of the numerous venomous snakes which infest the woods and marshy places, particularly the rattle-snakes and the aques, whose bite very soon proves mortal, if you do not apply the specific used by the natives of the country. In some of the trees, we observed

large holes cut in the side, which, we were told, had been made to get the honey and wax of the wild bees, the latter commodity being very profitable, where so many shrines and altar-pieces are constantly lighted up in the towns and villages to the Virgin and whole calendar of Saints.

This day we passed the village of Barranca Vieja and Yueel, both on the left bank of the river, the hills were undulating, and the forest scenery grand. Thermometer in the shade at one P.M. 87°, and at three P.M. 89°. An Indian jumped overboard for his straw hat, which he got without accident;—these men swim admirably. A large raft with horses and mules passed near us going down the river; it was surrounded by a good bamboo fence. We saw a great many scarlet macaws, they are always in pairs, and sometimes their scarlet heads were seen just peeping out of the holes in trees, in which, we were told, they make their nests.

We remained this night at the village of Yurbertin, and, in the evening, walked to the square, where we found groups of persons of different

shades of colour playing at cards at small low tables, by moonlight, for sweetmeats. The Negroes, Indians, Mulattoes, Samboos, and Creoles appeared as interested about these games as professed gamblers throwing for thousands at a London gambling-house. We were surprised, or perhaps rather mortified, to find these gamblers took but little notice of us. The men of this village were all fishermen, and we observed great quantities of fish, in shape and colour like roach, weighing two or three pounds, strung on cords to dry in the sun. As our mosquito-curtains had been well put up before sunset, we bid defiance to these blood-thirsty insects, who might be heard outside, by their whining noise, flying in all directions and endeavouring to find an aperture in the curtains. A servant should be ready to close up the curtains instantly when you creep into bed, otherwise these tormentors get in, and bite and serenade you all night. I hardly know any thing more tormenting than the bites of mosquitoes in a tropical climate. It is almost impossible to refrain from scratching the place bitten, which becomes very soon

a sore, and sometimes extremely painful. Tobacco steeped in rum is applied by the natives to the sores, and I found it abate the inflammation considerably.

We took our departure from Yurbertin at day-light, and saw a green and black snake, about seven feet in length, gliding among the bushes on the side of the river. Before we could get our guns, he was out of sight. At half past twelve, P.M. we passed the town of Teneriffe. This place had suffered much during the struggle of the Columbians for liberty. The church and best houses had been burnt down by the patriots in 1812, as the inhabitants were Godas or Goths, a term applied to the Spaniards from being descended from the Goths. We saw in a canoe a large fish, called a bagré, nearly three feet in length, with large dark spots on the sides, a big flat head and wide mouth, small eyes and long strong whiskers. The bagré is a good fish for the table, and its flesh eats firm. One of the Indians caught a small water-tortoise. Another large alligator lay dead on the sand-bank, and a whole flight of vultures were feeding on him. Among the

number we observed two of the species called the king of the vultures. It is said that the common vulture retires from his prey, like an obedient subject, and looks on while the king makes his appearance. This may be generally the case, but on this occasion, I suppose, the spirit of republicanism had extended to the feathered tribe, and the sovereign was no longer treated with the same respect, for the two kings and all their subjects were feasting together sans ceremonie and as jovially as King Arthur and his knights. We saw this day, for the first time, the cabeza negra black-head. It is a very large bird, standing full four feet in height, the body white, head black, and neck bright scarlet. It was so shy that we could never get within shot. We also saw flights of green paroquets, who make much noise in flying. The small fish were in such shoals in the shallows, that the canoe appeared to cut through them. This was near the village of Plato; here we counted thirty alligators, swimming within two or three hundred yards of our boat; in general their heads only appear above water. The Plato was a

remarkably neat pretty village, we therefore resolved to take up our quarters there for the night.

In the evening we rambled as usual about the village, and at a house fell in with two black boys playing on violins, a girl on a small drum, and a mulatto-boy on a triangle. We were much surprised to hear these swarthy musicians play some waltzes with great taste, and having expressed a wish to see some dancing, a circle was soon formed and dancers found. My young Secretary waltzed with two or three pretty mulatto girls, and some of the villagers waltzed away for an hour or two. It was quite pleasing to see how gracefully young girls of eight or nine years old waltzed, placing their arms in a variety of elegant attitudes. The Creoles, Indians, and Negroes, have an exceedingly correct ear for music. I have since often thought with pleasure of this evening; the night was cool and refreshing, the moon shining full upon us; every one seemed to possess a gaieté de cœur and contentment. The groups of little naked laughing boys and girls, sitting cross-legged around us, as well as

the dancers, seemed to enjoy the novelty of the scene; perhaps it may be doubtful whether the brilliant assemblage at Almacks ever felt the cheerfulness of these unsophisticated children of Nature. Rum and cakes were handed round between the dances. Thermometer this day, three P.M. 93°. As we were leaving Plato early in the morning, a young mulatto girl brought Colonel Campbell a present of a bowl of new milk, and some fruit. The Colonel had chatted with her the preceding evening, and given her a trifling present; and to show her gratitude she made this return.

We gave a passage from this place to a Samboo girl, who was going to Mompox. The canoe or piragua in which she went down the river, was upset during the night, by coming in contact with a large floating tree; every thing was lost: the girl and crew saved their lives by swimming on shore. This young damsel appeared to bear her misfortune with a great deal of philosophy, as I frequently heard her singing. During the voyage, I shot a heron, measuring five feet from the tip of one wing

to that of the other. We saw a great many wild ducks and geese, and bright green lizards on the banks of the river: these reptiles are remarkably quick and agile in their movements. The natives are fond of dogs, and they are numerous in all their villages; their barking in the night keeps at a distance the jaquar or spotted tiger, the red leopard, and other beasts of prey. I was told that canine madness was not known in South America. The water of the Magdalena is always extremely muddy. We passed the village of Sombrone on the left bank of the river, and slept at St. Pedro, seven Spanish leagues from Plato. Thermometer at three P.M. in the shade 92°, in the sun 112°. We fired four times this day at alligators, very near the bongo, with swan-shot, and certainly struck them, as they sunk immediately, and we saw no more of them; I should conceive that one of Mr. Staudenmeyer's rifles would, at a moderate distance, send a ball through their coats of mail. We slept this night at Sitio del Demonio, or the Devil's Abode, from the swarms of his imps, in the shape of mosquitoes,

which infest this place. Started at sun-rise the 15th of January.

This morning the second patron, or master of the canoe, fell overboard, having taken more than was necessary for quenching his thirst; we instantly saw a large cayman or alligator make towards him; by splashing the long poles in the water, and the Indians and Negroes making a tremendous noise, we fortunately kept it off until we threw a rope to the patron, and got him safe on board; the alligator and the ducking had completely sobered the gentleman. Colonel Campbell found several eggs of the cayman recently hatched. The navigation of the river was now very tedious, owing to the number of large trees that were lying in the water, which, by narrowing the water-course, formed strong currents and eddies; and as the wind had failed, the crew were obliged to pole up among these trees, on account of the water lying too deep in other parts of the river. Whilst poling, and in a most profuse perspiration, they drunk large draughts of water without feeling any bad effects;

this may, perhaps, be attributed to the warmth of the water. Several flocks of wild pigeons and some large white kites were seen in the course of the day. Thermometer at three P.M. in the shade 93°. In the afternoon we had a gentle breeze from the s.w. and a few drops of rain, the first we had felt since we had put pied à terre on the continent of South America. Head quarters for the night at Pinto, a small village containing 300 souls. The farmers here are graziers, some of them having 100 head of cattle. We called in the evening on the second alcalde or magistrate, and purchased three tiger-skins for six Spanish dollars. The wearer of one of them had carried off a broad mace of the alcalde's some time before, and in the attack with this ferocious animal, three of his best dogs were killed. The hunters of the jaquars sometimes kill them with ball, but generally they prefer for this purpose a lance seven feet in length, with a broad iron head, sharp at the point and sides. The alcalde mentioned that our large tiger had swum across the river, about three months before at day-light, and came

into the middle of the village; the dogs gave the alarm by their incessant barking, when he turned out with his slaves, attacked the intruder, and killed him. The jaquars and caymans are mortal enemies, and the former wages perpetual war against the latter. Whenever the tiger surprises the alligator asleep on the hot sand-bank, he attacks him under the tail, which is soft and fat, and the most vulnerable part; and such is his alarm, he will hardly move or make resistance: but if the alligator gets his enemy into the water, his more peculiar element, then the tables are turned, and the tiger is generally drowned and devoured; being aware of this inferiority, when he has to cross a river he sets up a tremendous howl on its bank previously to entering the water, with the hope of scaring the alligator to a distance. There were a great many tiger-cats in this neighbourhood, which carry off small pigs, goats and poultry; their spotted skins are very beautiful and soft, and an article of commerce to Europe. A fat cow was

worth here about twenty Spanish dollars, from which they will get frequently two arróbas * of fat for making candles.

We left Pinto at six A.M.—thermometer at that time 78° ; there was a heavy dew in the night, and a thick fog in the morning. Prayers were always said by one of the Indians or Negroes before we started, and in the latter part of the service, the crew all joined in the chorus. This being a cloudy day, I went with Colonel Campbell in the piragua to shoot, and landed at a beautiful spot where there was an Indian cottage, surrounded by a variety of fruit trees of great beauty, covered with buds, blossoms, and ripe fruit. Gentlemen in England would have considered these trees invaluable as ornaments to their parks, but here the axe is applied without mercy by any one, beyond reach of an injunction and danger of impeachment for waste. We saw here a different species of monkey called mono

* About fifty pounds.

mochino, with very long tails, which they made use of in jumping from tree to tree, with surprising activity. We followed them for some time, being anxious to examine this species, but failed in all our efforts to get a shot. We remained for four hours in these woods, and although they are covered with deep verdure, and we occasionally found an un-sunned Indian path, yet the heat was intense and the exercise of walking occasioned great fatigue. We filled our bags with a large red monkey, with a beard as long and rough as that of a Capuchin friar; two large macaws, one scarlet, and the other bright blue and yellow; two green paroquets; a beautiful snake-hawk, so called because he kills the snakes, with a black ring round the neck; an oropædulo; a black-bird, the size of a thrush, orange feathers on the breast, and part of the tail; a large heron; a pato real, or royal wild duck; and a yellow hawk with brown head. This we considered a fine day's sport. We felt some remorse for having killed the padre monkey; he looked up at us in a reproachful and pitiful manner, as much as to say, "What have I

done to deserve death?" and while dying, his long beard gave him something the appearance of an old man. We saw a scarlet spoonbill, but he kept out of reach. We arrived at six P.M. at Rinconada, a solitary house, both of us quite knocked up; having had much exercise and nothing to eat since six o'clock in the morning. We slept here. The master of the house was a Creole, a very industrious man; he had three years before got a grant of 1000 yards along the bank of the river, and as much as he could cultivate in the rear, paying the small tithes to the clergy of Mompox. During this time he had erected a sugar-house; a neat building, in nice order: and his plantations of sugar, chocolate, and plantains, were in a most thriving condition.

On Saturday, the 17th of January, we arrived at the town of Mompox, at four P.M. We had a letter of introduction to a respectable Columbian merchant of that town, of the name of Pino, where we expected to have been offered lodging, but unfortunately Mr. Pino was at that time very ill, and could not receive us. We then called on Mr.

Lynch, an Englishman, who had been an officer in the Columbian service, and was then established as a merchant at Mompox. He very politely offered us part of his house, which we gladly accepted. At this town it is necessary to get another description of boats with flat bottoms, called champans, to navigate the Magdalena, as the river becomes more shallow, as you proceed higher up. It is a singular but well known fact, that these champans are exactly the same boats in shape and construction as those made by the Indians, or Aborigines of the country, for the navigation of the river, before the conquest of them by the Spaniards. All improvements of means of transport were checked by the old Spaniards; since it was evidently the policy and great object of the court of Madrid, that the different provinces of these extensive colonies in the New World should have as little communication as possible with each other, in order to keep them in ignorance of their strength and resources; therefore the traveller meets with numerous obstacles and difficulties in navigating the rivers, crossing the plains,

and going over the mountains of this immense country. I trust the age of barbarism is ended at last, and that, ere many years have elapsed, the traveller and merchant will be able to traverse this vast continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific with facility. Nature has contributed her part towards the accomplishment of this object; for no country possesses such fine navigable rivers as South America. The building of the champans costs a considerable sum of money; for a large one they pay 3000 dollars. They build a great many at Mompox. Our boga-men were drunken and quarrelsome; whilst we were here, there was a fight between them with their manchettos, or long knives, in which one of them was killed and five wounded. There was no inquiry like a coroner's inquest, or any notice taken of the affair by the civil power. Indeed such refractory fellows as the boga-men of Mompox are only to be kept in order by a military power, which punishes the delinquent without delay. We did not meet with much gratitude in the black girl, to whom we had given a passage from Baranca Nueva, for the

young hussey endeavoured to cheat my cook in the sale of a couple of hundred of turtles' eggs, which he wished to have purchased. The turtles lay their eggs mostly in this month.

Mompox was and still is a great emporium for trade, but like most of the towns in the republic of Columbia, has suffered much by the recent war. Its centrical and advantageous situation on the banks of the Magdalena, between Carthagena, Santa Martha, and the provinces of Antioquia, Mariquito, and Bogotá, must at all times ensure it a considerable trade in the transit of merchandize, and the produce of the interior provinces, such as cocoa, Brazil-wood, sugar, coffee, gold-dust, pito (sort of strong flax), &c. A cargo of dye-wood, 260lbs., is worth at Mompox eight dollars, and the price of a good horse is 200 dollars. Mompox has a population of about 800 souls, who are of all colours, but the majority black and Samboos; and the bogas, or crews, of the champans which pole up the river—as drunken and dissipated a set of fellows as any under the sun—mostly reside at this town.

There is a civil judge, two alcaldes, a military governor, of the rank of colonel, and a small garrison of sixty men, whose chief employment is trying to keep the boga-men in order. There is a manufactory here for gold chains, the gold is brought from the province of Antioquia; they are elegant and pretty, and there is not the slightest alloy in the metal. Mompox has some fine churches, and several convents; the latter have been shut up by the present government, and their inmates, the drones and locusts of society, set at liberty, some of whom are in the convents at Bogotá, which retain their property, and afford an asylum to the old friars of the provincial convents which have been suppressed. The houses in the principal streets are good, one story in height, and look neat and clean, from being occasionally white-washed. At night the streets were lighted up by large paper lamps: an order for this purpose had been recently given by the government, in consequence of an attempt having been made to assassinate Mr. Pino. There is a long quay on the side of the river, and a wall a mile and

a half in length, twenty feet high, and three feet in thickness, as a protection to the quay and town against the inundation of the river in the rainy season. The market at Mompox is good; you get plenty of fresh meat, a variety of fish, fruit, and vegetables; the grapes and pine-apples are very fine. The people keep, in cages, birds called tropiale, black and orange, the nightingales of this country; they are very dear when they sing well. I gave sixteen dollars for one, but its note was beautiful. The bird died afterwards at Bogotá, as the climate was too cold for it. The heat is great at Mompox, from its low situation: thermometer, 22d of January, two o'clock P.M. 88°, with a little air.

Colonel Rames and his staff dined with us on the 20th; a very gentlemanly man, who had been a considerable time in the Columbian service. He wore the insignia of three orders; among them those of a Libertador de Venezuela. The good patriots at Mompox had made considerable resistance to the Spanish general, Morales, who,

as usual, when he obtained possession of the place, shot a great many of the inhabitants. The fête of St. Sebastian is a gay day here; when the black and mulatto girls amuse themselves by throwing flour over the black heads of the negroes. We drank a very pleasant cool beverage called giracaco, made of the juice of the sugar-cane, boiled with water.

On the 23d, I rode out with my secretary to a small village about four miles from Mompox; here we observed a curious way of raising cabbages, onions, &c. A frame-work was made of strong bamboos five feet high from the ground; on this a compost of fine earth and a small quantity of manure is placed, and in this they sow the cabbage and onion seed; the plants we saw were large and fine, and the raising of vegetables in this way has these advantages, that neither pigs nor poultry can get at them: the beds are watered in the morning and evening. Colonel Campbell met with Mr. Manning, an old acquaintance, here, whom he had known at Barcelona in Spain. Mr. Manning was

on his return to Carthagena from Bogotá, where he had been on a mercantile speculation.

Having hired two champans of Mr. Pino and a piragua, or small canoe, and Mr. Lynch having prevailed on our motley crew of boga-men, we purposed leaving Mompox on Friday the 23d; but Mr. Lynch's exertions and our own failed in collecting the crew, as the majority of them were drunk and scattered about the town. It is a bad custom they have here of advancing the whole of the wages to the boga-men before embarkation, for like our English sailors, these men will seldom leave the shore as long as they have a real to spend in aquadient (spirits) and chicka (sort of strong cider). Provisions are found for the champan-men by the person who provides the crew, and are distributed to them by the patron or captain of the champan every day, consisting of salt-beef, plantains, and sometimes rice. These are cooked in the stern of the vessel, and brought to them in a large iron pot; they wash their paddles and lay them in the bottom of the boat to form a table, when the

mess is served out to them, which they eat with their fingers: most of them have for dessert a cake of sugar. Our largest champan was about sixty feet in length by seven in breadth, two feet from the water's edge; the height of the convex covering in the centre, is six feet six inches; it is made of bamboos, strong and flexible, covered with palm-leaves, and fastened well together by tough twigs. The complement of men for a champan of this size, is the patron, a pilot who steers with a large paddle at the stern, and twenty-two men, who all use poles twenty feet in length; part of them on the top of the covering, and the remainder in the bow of the champan: the pole is fixed against the shoulder, which becomes in consequence hard and callous. The bogas lead either the most indolent or the most laborious life, being able to pole up a champan against the tide, from six in the morning till six in the evening, under a tropical sun, allowing an hour and a half for breakfast and dinner. In the operation of poling, their movements are sometimes slow, sometimes quick, and regulated by the voice of one

or two of the men. This noise is at first unpleasant, but custom soon reconciles you to it, and you think no more of it than a miller does the grinding of his mill. What is not so easily passed over, is the shaking when the bogas vary the monotony of their movements by a sort of short jump or dance, which completely puts a stop to reading or writing: they frequently throw water over the boat's covering to cool it. The bogas, from their exertions and constant walking over the hot decks, are subject to sore legs, and we frequently saw in the villages young men disabled by this sort of work, and, from want of proper medical advice, remaining a burthen to their families. I think the passage up this river, from confinement all day in a champan with the bogas, the intense heat of the climate, the swarms of mosquitoes of different sizes and sorts, of which there are five, and sleeping on hot sand-banks, is as bad and uncomfortable a pilgrimage as a human being can well have to perform. This being the case, the traveller can have but one object, which is to shorten the penance as quickly as possible; for

this purpose I strongly recommend taking two or three small barrels of rum, and two or three hundred cigars, and giving the bogas, as long as they work well, two or three cigars and a glass of rum every morning and evening. The poor fellows really deserve it; for poling so many hours under a burning sun is excessively hard work, and would probably kill any European in a few days.

I gave a passage from Mompox to Hinda, to Captain Hughes, cousin to the gentleman who owns the copper-mines, who was on the half-pay of a regiment of Lancers, which had been raised in Ireland by General Devereux for the Columbian service. Poor Hughes had lost his hearing in his campaigns, spoke scarcely a word of Spanish, and was, I believe, much in want of that which is our best friend in all parts of the globe.

At seven A.M. on Saturday, 24th, we left Mompox to our great joy. The banks of the river were flat, but were studded with neat cottages surrounded with plantain trees. Thermometer this day in shade at four P.M. 88°. One of our monkeys (we had two on

board) got on shore, and two or three bogas went into the woods after him. They brought him back dead, having killed him with their manchettes, a long knife which they always carry with them, having cut at him as he was going up a tree. On our shooting excursion this day, we saw one of the scarlet pelicans in a situation to be approached near enough to be shot, by going round considerably and walking through some high hedges and long grass, which our anxiety to get the bird determined us to do. As we were creeping quietly through the cover to get at him, we heard all of a sudden a great noise and rustling in the hedges, and at once concluded that a jaquar or tiger had sprung up, and was coming to attack us. We instantly cocked our guns, prepared to make as good a defence as we could, but were agreeably disappointed at catching a glimpse of a wild hare that rushed past us, having been disturbed from her shady retreat.

We got six leagues up the river this day, and slept on a sand-bank opposite the village of Guama, which is on the right of the Magdalena. Swarms

of mosquitoes were on this sand-bank, and the river full of alligators, who made such a noise all night by splashing and clashing in their pursuit after the fish, as to prevent our sleeping, our cots being close to the river. The bogas told us the alligators seldom came out of the water at night, which was agreeable intelligence, as they would have proved very unwelcome visitors.

We started at daylight, six A.M. Thermometer in the shade 78°. Colonel Campbell had this day the luck to shoot a cabeza negra, which we had been long endeavouring to do. The bird was only winged, and we had considerable trouble in catching him, as he appeared to run nearly as quick as an ostrich, and made a determined resistance with his long bill, when one of the bogas overtook him in a shallow, and knocked him down with his long pole. This curious bird measured ten feet from one tip of the wing to the other, and six feet from the beak to the toe, standing five feet high, no feathers on the neck, merely a rough skin. He walks in so stately a manner that he has acquired the name of "el capi-

tan", the captain. We again slept on a sand-bank, and the wind having blown up the mosquito-curtains, these insects drew our blood freely. Off at daylight. My left leg was so swollen and bad from the bites of the tormentors that I was unable to accompany Colonel Campbell in his shooting excursion.

Arrived at El Peñon about ten in the morning, where we remained that day to get two more bogas, and the roof of the piragua repaired. After breakfast Colonel Campbell went shooting, and brought home a pretty small monkey, called a titti; back, light gray; breast and belly, chocolate colour, and the face without hair, of a pleasing aspect; a water-rail, with bright yellow wings, and a large hawk that had been for some time the terror of the poultry of the village. In the evening an old Indian woman brought Colonel Campbell a present of some eggs for the service he had done in killing the falcon, and the little boys danced round the dead bird for joy at his death. Thermometer in shade at one P.M. 82°. The parents were very particular in this village to make their children say their prayers three

times a-day; they kneel down and chaunt them in Spanish. We had part of the cabeza negra for dinner, it was coarse and tough.

In the evening, a religious procession, with six paper-lamps on poles, a cross, and a daub of a painting, walked round the church, and went from one end of the village to the other, attended by about sixty men, women, and children, an old Indian at the head, chaunting vespers. The old Indian told us that this ceremony was performed two or three times a-week to keep off evil spirits. We had a good lodging at the house of the alcalde. El Peñon belonged during the Spanish government to the King of Spain, and paid him an annual tribute; it now pays something less to the present government. Nearly opposite to El Peñon, is a small caño or canal, which communicates with a lake called Sapetosa, but is only navigable for canoes when the river is increased by the periodical rains. We were told that the surface of this lake is covered with wild fowl.

In this village we saw the guava tree, from the fruit of which the jelly of that name is made, and

a great deal of it sent to Europe. The plaga, or sand-fly, is only found in particular parts of the Magdalena, and these little gentlemen perform their blood-sucking operation in the day-time. March, April, September, and October, are the worst months for the mosquitoes, being the rainy season. Thermometer at two P.M. in the shade 90°.

Left El Peñon at five A.M. There were large prickly bamboos on the banks of the river, with sharp thorns an inch and a half in length, without leaves, twenty feet from the ground. Mr. Cade killed a curious bird, apparently of the hawk species; body, chocolate colour; tail, eleven inches long, green and fringed with white; beak, yellow; and eye, fine crimson.

Arrived at five P.M. at St. Pedro, and left it at five A.M. We purchased some capons here for three reals (one shilling and sixpence each). We saw lofty mountains to the S.E. at a great distance. Thermometer at twelve in the shade 88°. We passed up the Braquela de Morales, a short cut, not navigable at all times of the year. Our cook had suf-

fered in the legs so much from mosquitoes' bites and sores, that we feared his culinary operations would necessarily for a time be suspended. To-day we heard a new species of monkey chattering in the trees; he was small, of a light dun, and dark stripes on the body. Two patos reals, or royal wild ducks, swam across this arm of the river, with a young brood. They are half as big again as our tame ducks, and the alligators never molest them. The villages on the banks of the Magdalena are in general very clean, far superior in that respect to those of the southern countries of Europe, and we always found the inhabitants quiet and obliging to strangers.

We slept this night on a sand-bank, and, in a few hours, were roused from our slumbers by the bogas, who announced the near approach of a thunder-storm. These tidings occasioned a general scramble, in order to get ourselves and bedding under the toldo of the champan, the storms in a tropical climate being much more tremendous than those in Europe. The rain falls in torrents, the lightning forked and vivid, and the thunder rolls along the

distant mountains in awful sublimity. From the great pain in my left leg, I passed the remainder of the night very uncomfortably. Off at day-break, though we experienced delay in getting the champan afloat which had got aground.

We arrived at three P.M. at a remarkably neat pretty village called Morales. The view from it was fine and extensive, bounded by a range of high mountains, finely wooded to the summits. We took up our quarters at the house of a widow, who was in easy circumstances: she had two very pretty daughters, the eldest had been married about a year. We thought ourselves in high luck to be so well received by the widow. Rose at four A.M. to send our beds to the champans. We soon began to suspect a storm was gathering, from the gloomy sulky looks of our boatmen, although we were quite in the dark as to what had given them offence. The small champan remained behind to replace two sick men and one absentee. After we had proceeded a short distance in the large champan, our patron informed us, to our great surprise, that it was doubtful when

the small one would follow; for the men were extremely dissatisfied at not having rested a day at Morales. Under these circumstances we thought it advisable to return to the village. At this decision, I thought I observed the eyes of my young secretary sparkle with pleasure, and from subsequent events was convinced I was not wrong in my conjecture. The eldest daughter of our hostess had taken a great fancy to him, and made him a present of two small gold rings; and he seemed to find her society more agreeable than the dull monotony of the champan. On this occasion he considered himself a "garçon de bonne fortune." The countenance of the youngest girl was completely that of a gipsey, with delicate features, black eyes, and archness peculiar to those wandering tribes; she was engaged to be married to a smart young Creole, her cousin. We were obliged to give a severe lecture to our boatmen, and threaten to report them to the government at Bogotá, and have them sent as soldiers to Peru, which rather alarmed them. We got three fresh men, in lieu of two sick and one de-

serter, to whom we agreed to pay thirty-six Spanish dollars. The population of Morales was 800 souls. A considerable quantity of chocolate is sent from this place to Carthagena. There are fine rows of the palma real planted along the bank of the river, in front of Morales, and a great many about the houses, which much improve the appearance of the village. The villages are always surrounded with wood, and their plantations of sugar, &c. at a distance, to keep them from the pigs. On taking leave of the old lady and her daughters, the latter said in Spanish, " Adios, caballeros vos, se olvidaren en poco tiempo de las pobres muchachas de Morales, quando vends han conocido las belles señoritas de Bogotá"; "Farewell, gentlemen, you will soon forget the poor girls of Morales, when you have become acquainted with the handsome young ladies of Bogotá." I believe they were right in their surmise, although I remarked one of our passengers very triste during the day. These girls were certainly the prettiest we had met with since our arrival in Columbia. At Morales we remarked several women

and one man with a goitre, a large swelling in the throat, supposed to proceed from drinking the water of the Magdalena. We left Morales on the 31st of January, at five A. M. I could not walk to the boat without assistance, from the pain in my leg. Thermometer three P.M. in the shade 92°, and in the sun 116°.

Arrived at Vadillo at six P.M.—a hard day's work; there were a great many people standing on the banks of the river looking at the champan; and on enquiry, we found the next day, Sunday, was the feast of Candalesia, on which day was a considerable fair. This feast and fair is attended by many inhabitants of the town of Zimiti in the province of Carthagena, six leagues from the village of Vadillo, at the extremity of a lake communicating with the river Magdalena. In the neighbourhood of Zimiti, the people wash the earth for gold-dust, and procure considerable quantities, which is sent for sale to Mompox. In the evening the village was unusually gay, groups here and there of men and women in their holiday clothes, some dancing, others

playing at cards for sweetmeats. We here saw the Negro or African dance; the music consists of a small drum, and three girls who clap their hands exactly in time, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, who join in a chorus, whilst another man, an improvisatore, sings verses extempore, and apparently with much readiness. In one patriotic song we caught these words:

Mueran los Espanoles picaronos Tiranos;
Vivan los Republicanos Americanos! *

In one of these favourite dances, the attitudes and movements are very lascivious. It is danced by a man and woman, and at the beginning of the dance the lady is coy and shy, and runs away followed by the gentleman; but at last become good friends. This is a more voluptuous dance than the fandango in Old Spain. Some of the Zimitians danced particularly well. There was so much noise with the dancers until three or four o'clock in the morning,

* Perish the miserable Spanish Tyrants,
Long live the American Republicans!

that we could not get much sleep; and we were surprised to see several of our bogas, who had been poling the champans in the sun for about thirteen hours, the gayest of the gay in the dance. The Zimiti women wore handsome gold chains with crosses round their necks, and very large pendant gold ear-rings. A few days after our arrival at Vadillo, they had killed a large tiger in the neighbourhood, which had made great havoc among the cattle. Champans on the move at five P.M. Colonel Campbell and Mr. Cade went in the piragua to shoot, and killed two wild turkeys, several brace of snipes, and a woodpecker with a large scarlet top-knot. Thermometer at two P.M. in the shade 88°. We slept for a night on the sand-bank. Alligators and fish became much scarcer. Off at day-light. This day we saw at a great distance the mountains of the Sierra de Simiterra, in the province of Antioquia: they appeared to be of vast height.

We brought up for the night at seven P.M. at St. Pablo. Near this were steep sand-banks, filled with holes, in which small martins build their

nests. The soil here is not so rich and loamy, but more gravelly, with gentle undulating hills. We left one of our bogas at this place who was taken ill of dysentery; I gave him some calomel and rhubarb, from the physic chest I had taken out with me; but I fear my practice was as bad as Dr. Sangrado's, for the poor fellow got worse, and was unable to go on. Off at day-light. On some of the sand-banks we saw a great variety of beautiful butterflies of all colours and sizes; we did not trouble ourselves to catch any, because we were not prepared with boxes or small drawers to put them in: and if they are not well secured, the white-ant devours them.

Slept at a solitary house, in a fine commanding situation, surrounded with extensive plantations of chocolate and plantain trees, &c. The owner had lived there twelve years. The cocoa-pods on the trees resemble the small rough melon, and are of a dark red colour, and full of small beans, from which they make the chocolate. The soil on the banks of the Magdalena is peculiarly favourable for the cultivation of the cocoa-tree, being rich and moist. In

front of the house an orange-tree was growing, which had been planted seven years. It was ten feet in circumference. My legs were now getting better, and I was able to hobble about with a couple of sticks. We purchased here eleven capons for thirty-three reals, and a curious small sling with hard clay balls, used for the purpose of killing the macaws, parrots, and paroquets when they make their attack on the cocoa and plantain fruit. Our landlord informed us that he had killed a lion a short time before, but I have since ascertained that it was a species of leopard, the colour of a lion, but considerably smaller, and with a tail like the African lion. This man was staunch in the independent cause, and had made a present to the patriot army of a considerable quantity of chocolate, when going down the Magdalena to attack the Spanish troops. In our passage up the river this day, the head of the small champan went through our toldo with great force, close by Colonel Campbell's side; had it struck him, the blow would probably have fractured two or three of his ribs.

We were all much pleased with the prowess of Don, my pointer, who fairly came off victorious in a fight against four dogs in a village, each as large as himself, to the astonishment of the boatmen. A small raft of trees fastened together passed us on the river; no one on board. The bogas frequently return from Honda to Mompox on these rafts. Not one alligator seen the whole day. We slept on a small island, but were beaten up to quarters by a thunderstorm, and retired to our champans; but no mosquitoes to torment us. We were much amused by the monkeys, who were playing all sorts of gambols in the trees, hanging by their tails whilst the young monkeys clung fast to the backs of the old ones. We likewise observed that one monkey generally led the way, followed by others, with flankers and a rear guard. Thermometer at two P.M. in the shade 85°.

We remained for the night of the 7th of February in the large sandy plain called Penones de Barbacoas, where a battle between the Spaniards and Patriots was fought on the 29th of January, 1819, in

which the latter gained a complete victory. Colonel Campbell and Mr. Cade walked over the positions of each party; I was unable from my lameness to accompany them. The forest trees were particularly lofty and straight near this part of the river. We dug up three dozen of turtle's eggs out of the sand, and saw a great many pendulous nests of the birds called oropendulums: their structure is very curious, and they hang down from the extremities of the branches, having a small hole in the side. This pendulous construction is a defence against the monkeys, who are fond of eggs and small birds. The oropendulum is gregarious. The trunks of the trees on which these birds build are so very large, and the bark so remarkably smooth, having no branches nearer the ground than thirty or forty feet, that none of the boatmen could clamber up to cut off a branch, and let a nest or two fall; consequently my curiosity to examine their internal structure was disappointed. The oropendulum is a black bird with an orange-coloured tail; some of them the size of a small dove. We were much disturbed

in the night by the howling of two jaquars or tigers, which were at no great distance; but some large fires made them shy of approaching too near.

We landed on Sunday, the 8th, at the village of Saint Bartolemi, and remained there one day to get some fresh boatmen; which the patrón succeeded in doing by paying nine dollars per man wages. Thermometer at two P.M. in the shade 88°, and when placed on a sand floor in the room fell 3° in ten minutes. We paid a visit to an old Franciscan friar, belonging to one of the convents of Bogotá. He told us he had entered the order in 1783; and was chatty and communicative. We sent for a bottle of claret, and made the old padre drink three or four glasses; and notwithstanding his wry faces, which made our host smile and tip us the wink, I suspect he found it more palatable than Adam's ale, and had probably cracked many a bottle in his time. The friar was residing at Saint Bartolemi on account of his health. The haunt of an alligator eighteen feet long was near this village; several pigs and dogs when drinking

him our rencontre in the champan, he laughed heartily, and assured us Paddy was only his servant.

Started at half past four A.M. Thermometer at three P.M. in shade 83°. There are few sand-banks or islands in this part of the river, and the pebbles are large. We had this day a fine breeze, and saw in the sand-bank where we slept the fresh impression of a jaquar's foot, and heard one roar in the night. We found here an alligator's egg, which was blown by one of the boatmen; this I afterwards sent to England. I was told a curious history of the alligator at the period of hatching her eggs; that she devours all the young ones which do not run into the river, the immediate use of their legs being the only means of securing any maternal affection.

We reached Nare this evening, and the alcalde got us an unoccupied house for our quarters. About a mile before you arrive at Nare, there is a considerable stream, which enters the Magdalena; its course is through the mountains and by the town of Rio Negro. Our boatmen gave us some of the wa-

ter in their calabashes; it was quite clear, and much cooler than that of the Magdalena. This river is only navigable for piraquas two days' voyage from the Magdalena; the cargoes are then taken out of the canoes, and carried over the mountains, on the backs of men, into the interior of the province.

I was told here that an alligator had, a short time since, carried off a woman who was washing on the bank of the river. Her husband caught the cayman with a long hook, baited with a piece of raw flesh, the next day, and found part of the body of his wife in the inside. Six dogs were also devoured by this monster. Here we saw for the first time a herd of goats, a sure sign that we were getting into a mountainous country.

As I was sitting in front of our house about ten in the evening—all in bed but myself—thinking of my friends in England, I saw a man on the roof of the next house, endeavouring to strike something with a lance. I looked up, and saw a large monkey on the thatch. This person told me that Mr. Jocko came frequently at night to steal the poultry, and

had already contrived to carry off several fowls. The monkey was too active for his enemy, and escaped.

On the 12th of February at day-light we set out from Nare, leaving two bogas sick. Saw this day a large champan and piraqua coming down the river. They are generally kept in its centre, the crew with one of their long poles fixed in front, paddling down, and singing merry songs. This mirth might be easily accounted for; the bogas were returning to their families at Mompox, and the navigation down the river, with its current, is mere pastime for the boatmen.

We remained for the night at a small island. No allowance of rum to the boatmen this morning, as they would not assist our servants in the night to get our beds into the champans in the midst of a heavy thunder-storm. Colonel Campbell was now suffering much pain from a large boil on his right arm. Some beautiful butterflies were caught, but we found them skeletons next morning. The white ants would be very useful in preparing skeletons. Thermometer three P.M. in shade 82°. We slept

on a sand-bank. More rain fell. The rainy season had just commenced, which ill suited our gipsey encampments.

In the evening, we saw on an island some hundreds of parrots and paroquets, which came to roost in some low wild fig-trees, all in pairs, and before these birds closed their eyes for the night they made during half an hour as much noise as a large rookery. I counted thirty pair of parrots at the same time in the air. We had been much annoyed for the last two or three days with plagas or sand-flies, which torment you particularly when reading or writing.

Passed this day the village of Buena Vista on the left bank of the river. The scenery was beautiful, from the different ranges of mountains, some of their bases coming boldly down to the river, covered with umbrageous evergreen trees and beautiful shrubs. Thermometer at one P.M. in the shade 84°.

We remained for the night on an extensive pebbly bank, and put the blankets over the mosquito-curtains in the hopes of keeping off the rain. The bogas recommended our not walking in the adjoin-

ing wood, as there were a great many tigers in these parts. We had now most days more or less rain. Slept at a house for the night lately built by Colonel Acosta. There were here several cases, filled with spades, pickaxes, &c. which had arrived from Carthagena, as a new road was proposed through a vast extent of the colonel's property from this place to Guadias, a delightful, large village, one day's journey from Honda on the road to Bogotá. Here also the new bodega, or custom-house for goods going to Bogotá, was to be built, and should the new road be carried into execution, it will, when finished, save two days' navigation up the Magdalena, and curtail the distance to Bogotá: the land-journey also will be shorter from this place, and very steep mountains be avoided. This new communication was to have been finished in ten months, but I suspect it will be two or three years before it is open to the public. There were several skins of wild boars hanging round the room which had been lanced by the man living here, who told me, they were frequently seen in droves of one or two hundred, and

sometimes did great mischief to the Indian corn, rice, vegetables, &c. There were three pendulous nests of the oropendulum close to the house, but we could not get up the tree, as it was full twelve feet in girth, above forty feet without a branch, and as smooth and slippery as ice. We heard here a small bird, called the bugio, with gray plumage, the size of a blackbird, which has a soft melancholy note, and sings the whole night. We left this house at daylight.

The river was now become very rapid in some places, and about half the breadth it was at Mompox. We found great difficulty in getting our champans by some of the chorros (or whirlpools); the boatmen were obliged to go on shore with ropes, and frequently got into the water. The 17th, slept on a small island, and arrived at two P.M. to our great joy and delight at the bodega, a custom-house of Bogotá, situate on the right bank of the river. Thermometer at one P.M. in shade 83°. Mr. M'Namara called on us this day. He was residing at Honda, endeavouring to procure

transport for the remainder of the tobacco he had purchased of the Columbian Government.

I shall never forget the delightful feelings and sensations I experienced on getting up early the first morning of our arrival at the bodega, and reflecting that I was now free from the confinement of the hot champan for twelve hours a-day, with the bogas, mosquitoes, and all sorts of disagreeable smells. I really felt like a bird just escaped from a cage, and hobbled about with two sticks, my heart as light as a feather, listening to the odd noise of the guacharacho, and to the notes of a variety of birds a mile higher up:—the name of guacharacho is given to this bird from a supposed similarity in sound to its peculiar note. It is about the size of our pheasant, the same shape, chocolate colour on the breast and back, the latter rather darker, neck variegated with white feathers, and red comb on the head;—they are good eating.

If the novelty of the scene roused our attention, that of the inhabitants was equally excited by us and our accompaniments. An Indian boy was much

pleased with a lamp belonging to Colonel Campbell. The light was reflected from three pieces of plate-glass, placed at obtuse angles, the centre piece being coloured. And our maps of South America were wonderfully admired by the inhabitants residing on the banks of the river, as we pointed out to them the names of their towns, villages, and provinces.

We went on Friday, the 20th, to dine with Mr. M'Namara, and met at his table one of the principal magistrates of the district, a very intelligent man, with three or four more public officers. The dinner was most abundant, and we drank some bumper-toasts to the prosperity and future friendship of England and Columbia. We remained for the night at Mr. M'Namara's.

About half a mile higher up the river on the opposite side, stands the town of Honda, in the neighbourhood of which are some fine waterfalls. These impetuous cataracts disturbed the silence of this station, and if I might judge from the birds inces-

santly straining their throats, the feathered tribe seemed to be kept in constant agitation by the roaring of the waters. Honda appears to have been a considerable town before a great part of it was destroyed by the earthquake which took place in 1807. The shock occurred in the night, and about 500 people lost their lives by this dreadful catastrophe. The principal church and many of the best houses are still masses of ruins. The river Guili enters the Magdalena at Honda, coming from the interior of the province of Mariquita. It runs over a black sand, which gives the water a dark appearance, although it is clear and well-tasted; but the natives prefer the water of the Magdalena, after letting it stand to settle in their patacas or pitchers. A long high bridge passes over the river Guili, and connects the town. Honda is the capital of the province of Mariquita, which extends for a considerable distance along the left bank of the river Magdalena, and is separated from the province of Antioquia and the valley of Cuica by a considerable ridge of the

Andes, part of which forms the famous mountains of Quindia, which I afterwards crossed on foot in December, 1824.

A gentleman gave me a small quantity of cinnamon, which had been gathered from trees growing wild in this province. Until now I was not aware that this valuable spice was to be found in South America. Here I saw some of the skins of the animal which the natives call leon, or lion, and on inspection was fully confirmed in the opinion that it was a species of leopard. The waterfalls above Honda are a serious obstacle to the navigation of the river, as the bogas are obliged to unload the champans, and convey the cargoes by land above the falls. The champans are sometimes lost in endeavouring to pass these waterfalls, the current is so rapid, and dashes from rock to rock with great force. A boat had shared this fate about two months before our arrival at the Bodega. A native of Honda told me that the river might be made navigable with safety for about 5000 dollars, and yet it has never been done. The people at Honda are

much afflicted with goitres (or swelled throats), and the inhabitants in general have an unhealthy appearance. One cause may be, that the place is excessively hot, being surrounded on all sides with high hills, which have a very romantic appearance, but, from excluding the air, increase the heat. Thermometer at ten at night 82°. The population is calculated at between four and five thousand souls.

On the Friday, we had a grand dinner with the governor of the province, Colonel Araya. Olla podrida was the first dish, followed by about twenty others, three at a time, till I was nearly suffocated with the luscious odours. The dessert was excellent, and a few bumpers of old Malaga wine concluded the feast. One of the persons who waited on us at table was the brother-in-law of the Governor. After dinner a story was related by one of the guests, which reminded me of a part of Sinbad's adventures in the Arabian Nights, viz.: "That there was a large rock of loadstone near the town of Mariquita, and that when travellers or muleteers passed

within a certain distance of it, they took off their spurs and the bridles from their mules, to prevent their being attracted." I certainly saw a piece of the rock in the possession of Mr. M'Namara, which had the qualities of the loadstone.

On Sunday, the 22d, the Governor and his lady paid us a visit at the bodega. The lady who was of a fair complexion, and a native of the town of Cututa, had accompanied her husband in some of his campaigns against the Spaniards. She had suffered great hardships, and given birth to a child in a canoe crossing a river, while endeavouring to escape from Morillo's troops.

The features of the country are particularly bold in the neighbourhood of Honda, some of the rocks assuming most whimsical shapes; the granite mountains in the rear of the bodega are like perpendicular walls of great height. There are four or five *armed* men to protect the property placed in this large shed called the custom-house.

On the 23d, the greater part of our mules arrived from Guardias, which were to convey us and our

baggage to Bogotá, and we were employed nearly the whole day in making the necessary arrangements for this movement. My carriage and some of the largest things were to remain behind at the bodega, to be conveyed over the mountains on the shoulders of Indians; it was to be taken to pieces and carried in separate parts. Captain Hughes and my English groom remained at the bodega to take charge of the heavy baggage. We set off about seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, and previous to our departure, saw Mr. M'Namara floating down the river with a cargo of tobacco in a large champan to Santa Martha: I have since heard that he was drowned in the Magdalena: his son, a fine young man, in the Columbian service, had been, a short time before this, hanged at the yard-arm of a Spanish man-of-war by order of General Morillo, for having answered in a spirited manner to some reproaches which that general uttered against him for serving the independent cause. This man is a sad ferocious character, if one half the acts of wanton cruelty be true which have been related of

E. Finden sculp.

him by Columbian officers. Morillo was either a native of the island of Puerto Rico, or the Canaries, and of low birth, but possessing some talent, great activity, and much perseverance.

We found the exercise of riding, even under a tropical sun, most agreeable, after the champan prisons, and we now considered all our toils nearly at an end, although the mule path was tremendously bad, and generally ran along the edge of steep precipices. Travellers soon lose their fears on finding what extraordinary animals the mules of this country are. They are well trained to ascend and descend these mountains and rugged precipices. As they proceed they fix their small feet with great caution and firmness in the holes made in the path by constantly passing and repassing. Their exertions in going up winding flights of steps, or descending, are quite surprising; they seldom trip, and your only security is to leave the bridle loose on the mule's neck, and let him pick his own path, which he does in a masterly manner, never attempting to walk straight, but always following the winding of the paths most

patiently. A good mule is invaluable in this country.

We travelled for a league or two close to the banks of the Magdalena, but over hills considerably elevated above it, and at different openings we had fine views of the river formed into eddies and foaming currents, by the opposition it meets with from large rocks. On turning suddenly to the eastward, we travelled a league and a half along the bed of a small river, which we then left, and ascending a steep hill, arrived at a sort of posada (or small public-house), where we remained to get our breakfast. Here we saw Mr. Jones for a few minutes; he was on his way to England, being connected with the house of Powles, Herring, and Co. who raised in this country the first Columbian loan. I remarked a young man in the house with his arm in a sling, and on inquiring the cause, he told me his arm had been badly wounded by a jaquar (or tiger) about a month before. He stated that he was walking in a forest, when suddenly a dog he had with him began to bark at something in

a dark cavern overhung with bushes, and on his approaching the entrance, a tiger rushed on him with great force, seizing his right arm, and that in the struggle, they both fell over a small precipice; he then lost his senses, but on recovering found the tiger had left him, and that his arm was bleeding and shockingly lacerated. We expressed our surprise that the jaquar had not killed him, when he shrugged up his shoulders, and remarked, "La bienaventurada Virgen Maria le habia sálvo." "The blessed Virgin had saved him."

Nothing could be finer than the Alpine scenery in ascending the mountains from the Magdalena; the broken ridges were almost everywhere wooded to their peaks; and several clear rivulets crossed the road,

> Rushing down from their rocky height,
> Leaping, sparkling in wild delight;

at which we were glad to slake our thirst. These mountains are crowned with fine majestic trees, whose roots are enveloped in shrubs, which being of

a dark verdure afford repose to the eye. Here and there you see the Indian's cottage surrounded with a small quantity of cultivated ground, in the most romantic and apparently inaccessible situations. The sugar-cane, plantains, and rice, are what the Indians chiefly cultivate. The singular shapes of the mountains of the different Cordilleras of the Andes, have a novel appearance to the European eye; their sharp sides and summits lead you to suppose that some extraordinary volcanic convulsions of nature had thus disfigured these stupendous masses. Towards the afternoon, having ascended to a considerable height, we found the atmosphere much cooler, and in some flat situations near the road, we passed some great and small farm-houses, and saw cows and herds of goats grazing on excellent pasture. We observed some high fern on the tops of the mountains.

At four we arrived at the summit of the range of mountains which separate the river Magdalena, from the valley of Guadias, of which village we had a distant view. I bid adieu to the river without

the slightest regret; and had the punishment of Lot's wife been threatened me for retrospection, I should have had no great temptation to resist, and should have deserved no credit for having escaped transformation into a pillar of salt.

At six in the evening we arrived at the neat pretty village of Guadias, accompanied by Colonel Acosta and his brother, who had ridden out a couple of miles to meet us. From the general appearance of the valley, we thought we had got at last into an earthly paradise, particularly when we found ourselves snugly lodged in Colonel Acosta's house, and a good dinner and wines set before us, without a mosquito or sand-fly to impede our operations. Nearly all the country about Guadias for some leagues, belongs to this officer, and the inhabitants earn considerable sums of money by furnishing mules for the conveyance of goods from the River Magdalena to Bogotá. A considerable number of horses and mules are reared in the valley. Colonel Acosta paid particular attention to

the breed of the former, and wished me to accept as a present, a fine gray horse, which I declined.

Our host was highly esteemed for his liberality and hospitality to all travellers, whether natives or strangers, who have an introduction to him. He is considered quite the patriarch of this happy valley; the inhabitants refer their disputes to his arbitration, which he generally contrives to terminate amicably and to the satisfaction of all parties. As Guadias is a few degrees warmer than Bogotá, invalids frequently come here for change of air and climate, which soon re-establishes their health. The Baron de Humboldt has calculated that Guadias is 5082 feet above the level of the sea.

Twenty-five mules with a part of our baggage arrived at Guadias at eight P.M. We passed a most agreeable night in good beds provided for us by our hospitable host. Rose early, and after breakfast walked to a convent which had been formerly occupied by monks of the Franciscan order: its situation

was remarkably pretty,—these good fathers never select bad ones,—on a gentle hill with a fine clear trout-stream wandering through green meadows. The Columbian government had seized its revenues, and the convent was now unoccupied, excepting a small part of the building, which was converted into a public school on the Lancasterian plan. Forty boys were at their studies; some of them I heard read extremely well, and I examined their writing, which was in general a good bold hand. The chapel of the ci-devant convent was neat and small, retaining all its ornaments.

On my return Colonel Acosta shewed me a curious animal, called the two-toed sloth, which he wished me to take to Bogotá. It was about the size of a small badger; colour, a dirty gray tinged with brown, two long curved claws on the fore-legs, and three on the hind-legs. Its movements were very slow, and apparently made with difficulty, but we did not hear it whine or shriek as if in pain when crawling along:—it supported itself on its long claws. The sloth is perfectly harmless, and

lives on the foliage of trees, but is altogether so ugly an animal that I felt no desire to have it. Thermometer in shade at two P.M. 76° 30′, at six P.M. 73° 30′. The climate varies little in this charming village, and in the rainy season is seldom below 70°. The climate and soil of the valley of Guadias would afford a suitable situation for European emigrants, who are ill adapted to settle on the burning banks of the river Magdalena. I went out with my pointer, but without my gun, found two or three coveys of partridges, and got some good points. These birds are rather bigger than quails, plumage variegated with dark and light coloured feathers, and in shape more like a quail than a partridge: they are considered a delicacy for the table. The population of Guadias and its vicinity is about 3500 souls; this place, from the excellence of its climate and soil, and its advantageous situation on the great line of communication to the capital, will I make no doubt in a few years become one of some importance. Sugar-cane, coffee, and plantain are cultivated in this valley, but the grazing grounds are

extensive and fertile. This was the first time we had seen any sheep on this continent: they were small, having long wool; colour, brown and white; their flesh is delicate like Welch mutton.

The curé named Lee, came to the colonel's house in the evening: he was an intelligent man, and extremely zealous in the independent cause, and much abused the Spanish government, which he considered by far the worst in Europe, and equally as destructive to Old Spain as to its former colonies. His grandfather was an Irishman, a merchant, who came from Cadiz, and had been kept in close confinement by the Spanish general Morillo, for siding with the patriots. The curé was a great sportsman and a good farmer: he had eighty fat bulls, some of which I saw the next day in his pastures. They would not have disgraced a Smithfield market a week before Christmas; they are not allowed to herd with the cows for six months previous to fatting. The beasts were not large, but their shape good, heads handsome, and particularly straight in the back and small in the bone. The curé told us that a person might

travel 500 miles from the left side of the river Magdalena, in a north-west direction towards Panama, without seeing a single hut or cottage, which I believe to be the case. There is a manufactory for straw hats at Guadias.

We arose at six on Thursday, and all went to bathe in the small stream near the convent, which was most refreshing. The last evening that we were at Colonel Acosta's, he gave a ball to the most respectable inhabitants of Guadias for our amusement, at which we had an opportunity of seeing the style of dancing of the higher orders. There were among them some pretty girls, particularly two sisters from Bogotá, who shewed off with their partners in Spanish country-dances, waltzes, and the fandango. I gave Colonel Acosta a game-bag and some English gunpowder, with which he was much pleased. He admired our double-barrelled guns, particularly one of mine by Smith of Prince's Street.

On Friday, the 27th, we left Guadias at nine in the morning with much regret, having enjoyed exceedingly the two days we spent with the colonel, who

with his friend the curé, Lee, and his brother, insisted on accompanying us a league or two on the road to Bogotá, notwithstanding all our remonstrances. This custom is very general throughout the country, and considered as a mark of respect from the host and his friends to his guests; and in some provinces I have had gentlemen accompany me to the end of their estate, distant perhaps three or four leagues. Many of the esquires of this country have waste estates, the boundaries being small rivers. Thermometer at seven this morning in shade 73°. On taking leave of the colonel and curé, we got off our mules and embraced each other after the Spanish fashion, putting the arms round each other's shoulders, saying, "Adios mis buenos Amigos." The mountain scenery was always fine and variegated, and we crossed some tremendously looking hills and rivers, over which bridges had been made with much skill and ingenuity. We arrived at the village of Villete at four in the afternoon. The alcalde and most of the respectable inhabitants came out to meet us on horseback, and we found an entertain-

ment prepared for us in the alcalde's house. Thermometer at Villete at four P.M. 76°, and it is considered two or three degrees hotter than Guadias, as it lies low and not so dry, in consequence of which they cultivate an abundance of rice for the Bogotá market. We found the road from Guadias to Villete rather better than that from the bodega to Guadias, but bad was the best. There are many black bears in these mountains: Colonel Acosta had the skins of two or three, which he had killed in some of his sporting expeditions: there is also the Coq de Bruyere (or cock of the wood) in these forests, but he did not shew himself. About a league and a half from the Villete we crossed the Rio Negro, or Black River; the descent and ascent near its banks are very bad, and full of quagmires. Here I saw one of the curious bamboo bridges which are thrown over rivers in some provinces: it did not appear strong, although very ingeniously made.

We arrived at five P.M. at a sort of inn, called the Curador's, where we halted for the night. The roads to this place were execrable, and in some places we

had much difficulty in getting our mules through the mud when we had dismounted to relieve them. Mr. Cade in attempting to ride through one of these sloughs was thrown by the mule falling on its side, and both mule and rider cut a sorry figure when they at last landed on terra firma. This is one of the great roads to the capital. One of my servants bought at an Indian cottage for two reals, a little animal called leoncita (or the little lion): it is exactly the shape of a lion in miniature, with a shaggy mane, and a brush at the end of its tail: it was rather larger than a squirrel, and of a gray colour, had fine black eyes, and hair like silk. This pretty little animal was very tame: I carried it to Bogotá, where the cold killed it*. We found it extremely cold at night at the Curador's, and were glad to use our blankets, and shut close the windows and shutters.

We had now ascended to a considerable height, nearly on a level with the plain of Bogotá, which is

* The Leoncita is, I believe, of the monkey species.

between 9 and 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, according to the measurement of Baron Humboldt. There were on each side of the road large stones, on which were carved the number of leagues to Bogotá, and the height of the spot above the sea. We were surprised to see the muleteers, on their return from the market at Bogotá, riding down steep descents and rocks with as much nonchalance as a bagman would pursue his journey on the Bath road, and this frequently with mules which appeared half starved. On the road we met some bulls with loads on their backs, and a rope through the nostrils as a sort of bridle: also three or four hundred horses and mules returning from Bogotá, where they had been at the great Friday's market.

We were on the move on Sunday morning at nine for the large village of Fucutativa, in the plain of Bogotá. We saw several troops of yeomanry exercising near the road: they looked very well at a distance. We heard on our way some of the red monkeys howling, which we did not expect to find in so cold a climate. We arrived early at Fucuta-

tiva: we met on the road Dr. Maine, and two English gentlemen, who had been waiting there to accompany us to the Columbian capital.

There is nothing worthy of notice in Fucutativa. We went to a dance in the evening, which was very inferior to our ball at Guadias.

On Monday morning we were in motion in good time for the capital, distant seven leagues from Fucutativa; but the whole road is through the plain of Bogotá, where you see, right and left, corn-fields and immense pastures abounding with cattle. We crossed over the river Bogotá by a long stone bridge, and observed a great many wild fowl on the wing, the shooting of which, as we afterwards experienced, is good sport on some of the lakes of this plain. We had a fine view of Bogotá when distant from it three or four leagues, situate at the foot of a range of mountains which form the eastern boundary of the plain of Bogotá: the fine cathedral and the convents of Guadaloupe and Mentsura on the top of two of the hills, are striking and conspicuous objects.

The English gentlemen had now mounted us on

good English horses, and as the road was in general a fine turf, we cantered along much to our satisfaction, forgetting our former toils and labours in the distant view of Bogotá, at which place we arrived at three P.M. We took up our quarters with Dr. Maine, who gave us a sumptuous repast dressed by a French cook, and invited a large party of natives and foreigners to meet us. The next day was spent in receiving visits of congratulation on our safe arrival at Bogotá from the ministers and other public officers. Colonel Campbell and myself waited on the Honourable Pedro Gual, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and delivered a letter addressed to him by Mr. Canning. We were very graciously received by Mr. Gual, who spoke English remarkably well, having acquired the language in the United States, where he had resided two or three years. The minister informed us, that he would let us know the next day when His Excellency the Vice-President would give us a public audience.

Finding there would be some difficulty in obtaining a house sufficiently large for my establishment,

and as Field-Marshal Ordoneta (President of the Senate) was expected to give up his residence in the Great Square in two or three weeks, having been appointed to the command of the province of Maracaibo, I acquiesced in the pressing invitation of Dr. Maine to remain with him until the Field-Marshal quitted Bogotá.

On the 8th March, Colonel Campbell, Mr. Cade, and myself had one public audience of His Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic of Columbia in his palace in the Great Square. He received us on a throne, under a sort of canopy of rich crimson velvet, surrounded by the ministers, military and naval officers, public functionaries, &c. of the republic. We were presented to His Excellency by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and after the usual ceremonies had passed we parted with apparently mutual satisfaction.

On the 10th we were occupied in returning a great many visits, among others, one of the Bishop of Merida, whose hand we had the honour of kissing: in performing this ceremony I remarked on one of

the fingers of Sir Ilustrisima a ring with an exquisite emerald in it. These emeralds are found in the celebrated mines of Moussa, about four days' journey to Bogotá, to the north-west. The bishop was a member of the Senate, and residing at this time at Bogotá to perform his senatorial duties. We had also to encounter this morning the magic fire of several pairs of brilliant female black eyes, around which the lily and the rose were contending for superiority, and all these charms were increased by long ringlets of raven black, forming the bocage to the whole. I could not help reflecting on what the young beauties of Morales had told us, and reminded my secretary of it.

The climate of Bogotá is particularly favourable to the complexion of the women, as the extremes of heat and cold are never felt here, excepting in the rainy seasons, when it may be two or three degrees lower. The thermometer in the shade is rarely above 70°, or below 58°, and nearly the whole year the climate is like that in England towards the end of the month of May, and at all times pleasant for

riding or walking: of the latter exercise I can speak from experience. I used to walk most days from three to four Spanish leagues, to the great surprise of the natives, who could never comprehend how any gentleman having horses in his stable could prefer tramping on foot; and on more than one occasion, I have been offered a horse by a farmer or Indian going to market at Bogotá, conceiving that the caballero had lost his horse, and was reduced to the necessity of walking home. In fact no one walks in Columbia who can afford to keep a horse, and a Bogotánian farmer derives as much pleasure from the jingling of his large silver or steel spurs (though generally without stockings and sandals on the feet) as any young cornet of hussars on first joining his regiment. It is much the fashion for gentlemen to ride through the streets of Bogotá, particularly on a Sunday, and strangers are surprised to see the horses going at a great rate in a sort of amble or shuffle, the rider sitting perfectly straight in his saddle. There are men who get their livelihood by teaching the horses this amble. Their me-

thod is by putting small cords round the pasterns of the horse, which only allow him to step out a short distance, and in a little time this becomes his usual pace. Their bits are extremely severe, and their saddle-cloths of scarlet or some gay colour, with gold or silver lace round them. Large sums are given for horses which amble fast, sometimes as much as 1000 dollars (or £200). Black horses are in high estimation: the Field-Marshal Ordoneta made me a present of a black stallion, which I was told had been sold for 800 dollars. The breed of horses is not large, but active, strong, and able to go through a great deal of work. A farrier's business must be lucrative in this country, as they charge five Spanish dollars for shoeing a horse.

The police in Bogotá is bad in many respects, and they much want an active officer at the head of it. In walking through the Calle Reale, (or principal street), where all the best shops are, you are every moment disgusted at the sight of beggars shewing their sores, particularly bad legs:—some of them of an immense size, from a disease called the Elephan-

tiasis. I recollect one idiot, a lad of sixteen, who was brought every morning into the street by his mother, and allowed to crawl about, and catch the passengers by the legs, making hideous contortions of the face. The Galenachs (or small black vultures) are the real scavengers of this town, and after a market-day in the Great Square you see numbers of them hopping about, so tame that you may almost touch them with a stick, devouring all the filth and offal of the market: the streets are occasionally well washed by the heavy rains; the town is built on the slope, and the water coming in torrents down the gutters carries all the filth with it to a small river which flanks the capital. A few gas-lights would be an improvement to Bogotá, and enable the passenger to walk at night with more comfort and safety under the gloomy walls of the monasteries, nunneries and houses, without fear of having a manchette thrust into him under the former, or of being drowned in Eau de Bogotá from the latter. Half the site of the town is occupied by large convents, with considerable extent of ground for gardens. The comforts

attendant on improvement will arrive at last, and I feel convinced that the Columbians will gradually get rid of all these inconveniences.

Many persons coming from the coast, or up the Magdalena, to Bogotá, are attacked by intermittent fevers, brought on by the sudden change of climate: this disorder is frequently tedious, reduces the patient considerably, and affects the spirits, but if bark be given in time it is seldom fatal. Mr. Cade and myself were so fortunate as to escape. Colonel Campbell had a short but severe attack, which Dr. Maine—who was skilful as a medical man—soon cured. Plenty of exercise and a pint of old Madeira is the best antidote for the fever, both of which I took every day. Good wines were not to be purchased at this time at Bogotá;—a light sort of vin de grave, with some bad Spanish wines, composed the stores of the wine merchants. The Europeans find also a difficulty in breathing soon after their arrival at Bogotá, from its great height above the level of the sea and the rarefied state of the atmosphere. An English groom I took out suffered

much in this way during the first four or five months which he resided in the capital, and he was ill a long time with intermittent fevers. Travellers are often attacked with severe bilious fevers in going from Bogotá to Carthagena; it is therefore prudent to remain a few days at Guadias to season a little, and to take two or three doses of Cheltenham salts.

On the 11th of April we all dined with Mr. Robinson an American merchant, who had considerable claims on the Columbian government for stores, &c. supplied during the war. Among many delicacies—Mr. R. was a bon vivant—he gave us a fricassee of chicken, which had been sent in jars from New York, and it was excellent; which proves that our Transatlantic friends know something of gastronomy.

This morning we rode out to see a quinta (or country-house) about a mile from Bogotá, belonging to Mr. Arrublas, one of the richest merchants of this place. Some of the rooms were fitted up with great taste and at considerable expense, looking into a pleasant flower-garden divided into parterres filled

with a great variety of flowers, particularly pinks and carnations. The rest of the grounds were in small ridges, with fine lucerne growing luxuriantly; all the lands could be irrigated at pleasure. This place was afterwards purchased of Mr. Arrublas by Mr. Henderson the British consul-general. The morning was fine, clear, and warm, and we could distinctly see the mountain of Tolema of the shape of a sugar-loaf, whose summit is perpetually covered with snow. Tolema forms part of the range of the Quindio mountains, and is distant six days' journey from Bogotá.

Monday and Thursday were "At homes" for the Vice-President, and Minister of Finance, Castillo; Monday the Minister, and Thursday the Vice-President. As Castillo was a married man we generally had some of the belles at his conversaziones, but they appeared so extremely fond of each other, and kept their ranks so close, that to charge and break them was as formidable an undertaking as to break through a squadron of our life-guards. Bottled ale, Jamaica rum, and sweet Spanish wines,

with dulces, were the refreshments of the evening. The ale which came from England was considered a great luxury, and the Minister of Finance was as fond of it as any John Bull could be. At the Vice-President's soirées we had no ladies; play was the great attraction, in which I never was induced to take a part.

The Bogotá ladies are by no means deficient in talent, but nothing can be worse than the Spanish education for females. They are sent very young into the convents to be educated by the nuns, and taught to embroider robes for the Virgin and all the Saints, and their minds filled with gloomy superstition. From what I observed during my residence at the capital, I should say the reign of bigotry is fast declining, particularly among the higher classes of men, who are aware that their former thraldom was chiefly maintained by the ci-devant mother-country through the powerful arm of superstition. One circumstance I regretted exceedingly, which was, that many young men of good families, and liberal education, had got from one extreme to the

other, having little or no religion ; their minds being poisoned by reading the works of Voltaire, Jean Jacques Rousseau, and other freethinkers, in consequence of which they turned into ridicule every thing held in estimation by the Spaniards. Time will, I trust, remedy this evil, and I hope and expect much from the Bible Society, which was established at Bogotá just before my departure.

Play, and a cigar in the mouth, forms the chief happiness of a vast number of the Creoles in South America ; one might almost be led to think that the excitement produced by the one was counteracted by the soporific effect of the other ; for notwithstanding the prevalence of gambling, I do not recollect an instance of suicide committed by a native during the whole time I was at Bogotá, in a population of 40,000 souls. It is a great consolation for a person to be able to whiff away grief and sorrow with so much facility. A stranger, soon after his arrival, is astonished at meeting in the streets with a pretty-well-dressed female smoking her cigar with the utmost sang-froid ; and although the lady has a

handsome hat, placed coquetishly on one side of her head, a beautiful pearl necklace, her fingers covered with rings, and a rich black silk gown ornamented with numerous rows of black bugles to cover her fine shape and figure, his surprise is still greater in casting his eye downwards to find her without shoes and stockings: their feet, though bare, are particularly well washed and clean. These ladies dislike shoeing as much as a horse which has run wild till he is five or six years old; and many of the young fashionable men admire these damsels "sin medias y sin zapatos", (without stockings and shoes)—"De gustibus non disputandum est." Smoking among the higher classes of ladies is now only indulged in in secret, but I was told that four or five years ago many were seen to smoke at the public balls

The garrison of Bogotá was composed of the huzzar body-guard of His Excellency the Vice-President, a corps of artillery, and a fine battalion of national volunteers, the latter all natives of Bogotá, having an excellent band. The artillery and the volunteers

were the best appointed troops; but I cannot say much for the huzzars, who were miserably mounted, small ugly men, and not well appointed; but the fellows fight stoutly, and go through a great deal of hardship and fatigue. There was a newly-raised battalion of the line in garrison here. From what I could learn, the military hospital was badly managed, and the sick soldiers were often in want of medicine and proper food and wine. There were no surgical instruments, and no medicine could be procured for the sick, unless the doctor's prescription was signed by the commissary of the division. If he happened to be from home, which of course would frequently be the case, the patient must wait his return, and one of the medical attendants assured me that he had lately lost three soldiers from this delay. A medical board is much wanted for the army. I understand the President, Bolivar, is most attentive to his sick soldiers, constantly visiting the hospitals himself, and sparing neither pains nor money to procure what is necessary for the re-establishment of the invalid's health. This is a

sure way to be well served, and soldiers think they cannot do too much for a general who acts the part of a kind father towards them. Bolivar is adored by his troops. But great allowance must be made for this infant nation, and let us hope that "poco a poco" these abuses will be corrected under the vigilant administration of the great and indefatigable Bolívar, and the present able Vice-President.

April the 20th we all dined with Dr. Marasaldic, a Columbian medical man; the tables, as usual, groaned under the weight of Spanish dishes. Two large jellies had the names of Colonel Campbell and myself inscribed on them, and "Viva los comisionadas Ingleses." The doctor had the credit of setting the example of hospitality, as he was the first native of Bogotá with whom we had dined since our arrival.

The market at Bogotá in the Great Square is really worth seeing; it is supposed that 10,000 dollars are expended there every Friday; and the stranger is much amused in observing from the steps of the cathedral, the Creole, Mulatto, Mestigo, Indian, and the Negro, the latter mostly slaves, all

busied in buying and selling. One part of the square is allotted to butchers, another to the venders of poultry, wild-fowl, and game, a third to those of fruits and vegetables, and a fourth reserved for the sale of coarse cotton and woollen cloths manufactured in some of the provinces. The Indians and young countrymen were about this time rather shy of coming to the market, as government had given orders to select some for soldiers. The fruits are particularly fine in their appearance, and you see in the same stalls, pomegranates, pine-apples, cherries, strawberries, wild and cultivated, peaches, apples, chirimóyas, melons in great variety, zapotas, mangoes, in short a great proportion of the fruits of the growth of the north of Europe and those of a tropical climate, offered for sale. This at first excites the surprise of a stranger, but within two days' journey of Bogotá, by descending, you find yourself in a complete West Indian climate. The meat would be excellent if the butchers did not cut off all the fat for making candles: it is about three-pence per pound. Having complained to my cook

that he gave my guests no variety of soups, he assigned as a reason that no veal could be purchased in the market to make white soups, but asked my permission to buy a cow with the calf, to sell the former again, and kill the latter. By adopting this plan I astonished the natives at my dinners with white soups, fillets, and loins of veal, calves-head, &c. which they had never tasted. The farmers do not like to kill any thing young, consequently you cannot purchase veal, lamb, kid, or sucking-pigs. We also purchased bullocks, and divided them among the English families, that we might get fat meat, cut up according to the English fashion.

The ladies of rank in Bogotá are generally small, but well made, and they can boast of having as pretty feet and small ancles as any women in the world, which are always set off by handsome silk stockings and very neat shoes. Like the women of Spain, they walk with grace and dignity, and are equally coquetish and playful with their fans. Their morning walking-dress appeared at first rather singular, but I afterwards thought it be-

coming. The head and shoulders are covered with a fine black or blue cloth without any trimming, which sometimes meets under the chin, but leaves the face exposed, and a small black beaver hat with a crown of a conical shape, you may literally say is on the top of the head; it was placed on one side, but as none of the head was in it, I really often wondered it did not fall off. Their gowns are black silk made to fit close, and much adorned with bugles of the same colour. In this dress the ladies always go to church. The reign of the small black beaver hat and the cloth covering, will I suspect soon be at an end, as some of the ladies, before I left Bogotá, paraded the streets in large French bonnets, with abundance of artificial flowers, and gay-coloured silk gowns, and neckerchiefs over their shoulders, to the astonishment and mortification of some of the priesthood, who considered it a sin in them to say their prayers in such gaudy attire. The walking evening-dress is a pretty straw hat with artificial flowers, stuck on in the same way as the black, a warm Norwich shawl, and chintz or cotton gowns

manufactured in England. At their tertulias and balls, the ladies dress after the French fashion with much taste, and are adorned with a profusion of pearls, emeralds and other precious stones, for the purchase of which they make great sacrifices. They have in general a very correct ear for music, but there is a sad want of masters and good musical instruments, for the difficulties and expense are great in getting a piano-forte from the coast to the capital, and by the time it arrived would probably cost £200. The ladies dance well and gracefully; the Spanish country-dances are particularly well adapted to show off the different attitudes of the body. Waltzing is also a favourite dance. In my morning visits to the ladies I frequently found them sitting on cushions placed on a mat after the oriental fashion, and employed at tambour work; a little female Negro slave squatted comfortably in one corner of the apartment, ready to obey the orders of her mistress. I remarked that the Creoles, or descendants of the Spaniards, treated their household slaves with great kindness and indulgence, allowing them to

converse with them in a more familiar way than we do our servants in England. As regards the morals of the ladies at Bogotá, I believe they can boast of nearly as much virtue as the European ladies. Now and then, to be sure, you hear of faux pas committed, but I must stand forth as their champion, and say they have been slandered in some works which have been published by travellers on the manners of the natives of South America; for should a female misconduct herself and discover a want of virtue, it would exclude her from good society, which it must be admitted was not the case under the Spanish government, whose policy was to demoralize the people and corrupt their minds, which made them unconscious of their yoke.

Gaming was much encouraged by the vice-roy and captain-general of the province of Venezuela; as a proof of which, one of the Columbian ministers assured me, that among the papers belonging to the captain-general found at Caraccas by the Independents when he evacuated the place, was a charge of 40,000 dollars to the king of Spain, for keeping

a gaming-table and giving petits soupers as a bait to his prey.

On the 6th of April Dr. Maine had a large party of Columbians to dine with him, and I happened to sit by Colonel Garcia. Our conversation turned on the various events of the civil war and the great struggle of the South Americans to obtain their independence. The colonel told me, that in the course of the war, he had been made prisoner by the Spaniards and sent from the coast to Bogotá, suffering great hardships on his long march to the capital, having been almost starved to death. The colonel having feigned a change of political sentiments, was liberated and employed in one of the inferior situations in the bureau de guerre. During this period, he contrived to have communications with Paula Salabariata, most staunch in the patriot cause, and who was afterwards shot at Bogotá by order of the vice-roy, her correspondence with the Independents having been discovered, and Colonel Garcia was once more sent to prison, on suspicion of being an accomplice with the heroine Paula. Whilst in

April the 10th we made a party to go and see the waterfalls of Tecuendama, having previously taken a cold collation at the quinta of Mr. Robinson. The party consisted of Colonel Campbell, Mr. Robinson, Baron Eben, Mr. Santamaria, senior, Dr. Maine, Mr. Cade, and myself. We left Bogotá about four in the afternoon; at six in the evening we reached the village of Succho, lying west by south of Bogotá. We took up our quarters for the night with Friar Candia, guardian of the order of San Francisco. Father Candia received us with much kindness and hospitality, and there was nothing monkish in his manner; on the contrary, you might soon perceive by his frankness and good-breeding, he had lived much in the world, and we all felt ourselves at home soon after our arrival. Friar Candia had been zealous in the Independent cause, during the period that the country was occupied by the Spanish troops under General Morillo. He appeared to be between thirty and forty years of age, with a mild, but at the same time intelligent countenance, strongly marked with good-nature.

The houses in the village of Succho appeared clean and comfortable: the contentment which was observable among the parishioners, was the best proof that our host, the friar Candia's mind was free from fanaticism and avarice; but unfortunately for Columbia, there are still too many friars and priests whose minds are warped by these bad qualities, and who do infinite mischief among the lower classes, by retaining them in superstition and ignorance. Padre Candia gave us a most substantial supper, with a profusion of sweetmeats and fruits.

The next morning we proceeded on our journey to the Salto, which is about two leagues from Succho. Half a league from this village, we passed the hacienda, or estate called Canoas, whose proprietor derives a very considerable revenue from the sale of wheat grown on these lands, which is considered the best on the plain of Bogotá, and fetches the highest price in the market. On approaching the foot of the mountains, we were highly pleased with the beauty and native luxuriance of this part of the plain of Bogotá; the river of that name winds

through it in a peaceful quiet course, and the scene was varied by the singular appearance of wheat and barley in different stages of maturity—they sow twice a-year: flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle, and horses, were seen feeding on extensive pastures, and quantities of wild-fowl were on the wing, hastening to some large lakes to the westward of us. I had no thermometer with me, but should conceive the temperature at Canoas to be about 70°, which is truly comfortable to the human frame! On ascending between 5 or 600 feet above the plain of Bogotá, the view was grand, embracing the various windings of the river, the large lakes to the westward, many villages, and the town backed by a range of bold mountains. We all remained for some time on this spot to feast our eyes on the beautiful prospect.

The population of this fine plain of Bogotá is small, when you consider the prodigious richness of its soil and its extent, being above sixty miles from north to south, and on an average thirty in breadth; but with all these great natural advantages, it must

increase ten-fold, and probably in a few years will be as well peopled as before the conquest of the country by Gonzalo Ximines de Quesada, when the plain was covered in all directions with Indian villages. What a climate and soil for Europeans, and how astonishing would be the produce under proper agricultural cultivation! There can be little doubt the emigration to South America from Europe will increase, when the governments are well established, and there is toleration in religious matters: then, and not till then, shall we see the great physical powers of the fertile table-lands of South America brought forth,—which possess perhaps some of the finest climates in the world, although so near the equator. The Baron de Humboldt mentions in his travels, that a man with a thermometer in his hand may choose his own climate in South America; for by ascending or descending, you may find the exact temperature which best suits your constitution.

From the height above mentioned, we began to descend towards the waterfall of Tecuendama. The

descent was abrupt, slippery, and bad in some places, through a grand but gloomy forest, whose shades sheltered us from the rays of a warm sun. As we descended lower all was silence, except the deep and fine note of the tropiale, which we occasionally heard, and our eyes were attracted by the brilliant plumage of some of the feathered tribe, who lived unmolested in these noble and wild forests. Mr. Cade got rather a bad fall in riding down the mountain, from his saddle turning round. At a small level spot we left our horses with our servants, and, after descending 2 or 300 feet, the Salto of Tecuendama burst on our view, which is the river Bogotá, about fifty-eight yards in breadth, rushing down between two mountains until it attains the edge of a precipice, whence a body of water, about twenty-five yards in breadth and ten in diameter, precipitated itself into the great abyss below. These chasms in the Cordilleras are termed Barancas: the sides are nearly perpendicular, consisting of layers of a reddish granite. The height of this fall was about 1200 feet; and above these masses of granite the

mountains were covered with large forest trees, which added to the awful grandeur of the scenery. At the bottom of the abyss in the valley, we saw the macaws and paroquets flying about; the former I never saw in the plain of Bogotá. The Baron de Humboldt calculates this fall at the Baranca at 600 feet; some of the scientific men of Bogotá think it more: who is right I cannot pretend to determine, but certainly the Baron had with him the best English and French mathematical instruments for measuring heights, taking observations, &c.

It is difficult to describe one's feelings on beholding this large body of water rushing into the abyss below;—surprise and pleasure are mingled with awe: I stood on the brink of the precipice for some minutes in silent admiration at this wonderful scenery. The water in its descent had the appearance of a heavy fall of snow in a storm, and the rays of the sun, coming in contact with the spray, occasioned a variety of colours. Slope on the side of the wood towards the waterfall opposite to where we stood, 75°. The body of water is much diminished when

it reaches the bottom, which the Baron de Humboldt accounts for by supposing that much of it is evaporated by the air in its descent. I was much surprised on looking over the precipice into the abyss below, to see rather an insignificant stream continuing its course east by south, and west by north towards the river Magdalena, into which it empties itself. The forests are well stocked with deer, as the chusco plant is found here in abundance, of which these animals are very fond: there is also another very fattening plant found in these woods, called plagadore; a bullock fed on it becomes fat in two months. We saw a bird called a yellaco, the size of a blackbird, back and breast bright-green, throat and tail red, the beak long and curved, and the upper mandible white, the lower black; and which had a soft sweet note.

We returned to Succho about eleven o'clock, where our friend Father Candia had prepared a good breakfast for us; and our long ride having sharpened our appetites, we did ample justice to it. Having rested ourselves two or three hours, we took leave

of our friendly host, mounted our horses, and returned to Bogotá, highly pleased with our excursion.

Two or three days after this, I had a curious and valuable present sent me, by the Honourable Pedro Gual: it was an idol of the Indians, made of solid gold, found in the lake of Guativeta. It was four inches in height, and about five ounces in weight. It did not appear from this idol that the Indians worshipped beauties in those days, as the features of this god were certainly hideous, and his body had not been cast in a Grecian mould. This idol was the largest which had ever been found in this country, and of the purest gold. Of the lake of Guativeta, where this idol was discovered, I shall say nothing at present, as I went to see it shortly afterwards. Señor Pepé Paris gave me a small gold serpent, also found in this lake.

During the week following Palm-Sunday, there were many grand religious processions through the streets, and the saints of the different churches were particularly sociable in paying each other visits.

Their religious processions are got up by the clergy with much pomp, parade, and gaudy magnificence, and are at present encouraged by the executive government as a sort of bauble or plaything for the mass of the people, whose dull monotonous lives require some little variety. Any extra expense unprovided for by the priests in these church processions, are paid for by the alcaldes at the time in office, consequently the government finds some difficulty in getting alcaldes. One day I was in the balcony of the house of the Minister of Finance and saw one of these religious processions pass by: each saint is as large as life, made of wax, with bushy flaxen wigs, dressed frequently in an unsaintly manner, and carried, in a sort of palanquin adorned with artificial flowers and embroidered silk, by eight or ten men dressed in black with masks on. From the great weight of the palanquin, the procession is obliged frequently to stop, in order to rest the bearers, and it is then placed on short poles with iron catches. As each church, convent, and nunnery has its patron saint, the utmost exertions are made

by the clergy, monks, and nuns to turn out their saint on this public occasion as fine as possible, and the poor foolish people often contribute a considerable share of their daily earnings for these ridiculous processions, when probably their children at home are on short commons. His Excellency the Vice-President, the ministers, generals, judges, &c. attended this procession with large wax candles in their hands; and I saw his Excellency, with the great officers of state, and all his staff, some of them protestants, kneel devoutly on the hard flag stones before the shrine of the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus, which was placed in a magnificent car, just opposite the door of Mr. Castillo. There are a host of flankers to this religious procession in the persons of jolly fat friars, canons of the cathedral, choristers and clergy, each armed with a large wax candle, and the rear guard is formed by the military, horse and foot, and crowds of the admiring populace. Bands of music being placed at intervals in the long moving column, some of the children of the higher classes are on this occasion

dressed up as angels, to attend the saints; and I was not a little amused at seeing the nephew of the Minister of Finance, an infant gaté, a pretty boy of seven or eight years of age, who had been in the morning equipped most superbly as an angel to attend the Virgin Mary, playing in the afternoon in the streets with some dirty little blackguard boys, and making more noise than all the rest put together. These farces and mummeries, for really they must be so called, will I conceive be discontinued as the lower classes get gradually more enlightened and less bigoted; for most of the well informed Columbians laugh at these fooleries, and if you ask them "cui bono?" they reply with a shrug of the shoulders, "you must sometimes throw a tub to the whale." I saw General the Baron D'Eben one day returning from a long procession of the friars of the order of Saint Domingo, in which the baron had the honour of carrying the saint's standard. The general complained of being hot, thirsty, and fatigued, that he had partaken of a great deal of spiritual comfort, but a moderate proportion of bo-

dily consolation, would have made the "tout ensemble" go off better. I had known the Baron D'Eben in England as captain of the York huzzars: he was afterwards captain in the tenth huzzars.

On the evening of the 16th of April, the large cathedral, churches, and all the convents were splendidly illuminated with wax candles; the altar-piece, blazing with innumerable lights, had a very imposing appearance as you approached it from the other end of the cathedral, and the eyes were dazzled by the resplendent ornaments of gold and silver plate, gilded saints, and rich velvet, embroidered in the most beautiful manner by the nuns, in the midst of which was the Virgin and infant Jesus; the dress of the former adorned with many precious stones. Before this altar I saw persons of all classes kneeling devoutly, saying their prayers; and in one part of the church, I saw a man and woman on their knees with their arms extended at right angles from their bodies: I found on enquiry that these were penitent sinners, who, as a punishment for their sins, had determined to remain for an hour and a half or

two hours in this position, and that they sometimes fainted from the excessive pain. There was also a man stripped naked to the waist, who was scourging himself with cords for his past sins. It appeared to me that he was careful not to hit too hard, although from his moanings and lamentations you would have supposed he was undergoing a dreadful punishment. You also see walking about the streets women wearing a religious habit, without being a member of a religious community; these females are called "beates" (or blessed). I could never exactly learn why the women wore this dress, except that it was a becoming one; and I have frequently met some of the prettiest girls in this religious dress certainly not looking very demure. The streets were exceedingly crowded with people going to vespers at the different churches, and you heard many of them saying their prayers aloud as they passed. There was a figure of a Jew placed near our Saviour in the procession, and a cigar was placed in his mouth, with a small crimson pink fixed at one end, which gave it the appearance of being lighted.

The day after Good Friday was a grand hunting day at Bogotá; there was a subscription pack of dogs kept in the town, for hunting the deer in the adjacent mountains. The dogs are a large sort of rough grayhound, which are fast and hunt by the nose; but the riding in the passes of the mountains among abrupt precipices is break-neck work, and requires strong nerves. The poor deer has hardly fair play, as some of the horsemen carry guns with them, and take up a position in the defiles of the mountains, to salute him with a shot as he passes: they also frequently have with them lassos. They have sometimes a good run when the stag is driven from the mountains into the plain of Bogotá. Colonel Johnstone of the Columbian service was extremely fond of deer hunting, and had taken several couples of fox-hounds to Bogotá. The stag killed this day was sent to me as a present by Señor Pepe Paris. It was a fine animal, with branching horns, but not quite so large as our red deer, and of rather a darker colour. The venison was tough and bad, far inferior to the fat bucks in the parks of our English

gentlemen. There was also in the forest small fallow deer; the buck has two small sharp horns without any branches, pointing outwards from their base. His Excellency the Vice-President, knowing my partiality to animals, had the kindness to send me a tame stag. He was a noble animal, and so tame that he would feed out of any person's hand. I was obliged at last to part with him. He had a trick of going up stairs and walking deliberately into the drawing room, and admiring himself in a large mirror; and on these occasions my servants found it difficult to make him leave the room, without injuring the furniture. He was particularly fond of barley.

No troops have distinguished themselves so much among the natives of Columbia, in the long sanguinary war carried on between Bolivar and Morillo, as the irregular cavalry—cossacks perhaps would be a more appropriate term—of the wide extended plain of Apuré, through which the river of that name winds its course; who by their intrepidity, great personal activity, excellent

horsemanship, and remarkable skill in the use of a long light lance, became at last quite the dread and terror of the Spanish troops, particularly of their cavalry. These men are accustomed, from their youth, to lead a vagabond sort of life on horseback, in looking after the large herds of cattle, nearly in a wild state, which feed on these extensive plains, and, like the people who inhabit the immense Pampas, or pasture lands of Buenos Ayres, they are frequently exposed to privations. The Llanero has few wants; he can live for months together on fresh beef, which his lasso can at all times provide for him: this he cuts into steaks, and broils without salt. Should his horse be knocked up, he soon procures another from the wild troops which breed in the savannahs. His arms and accoutrements consist of a long lance, sometimes a pistol in a leather girdle, a severe iron bit for his horse, for he has no saddle, a straw hat, ornamented with a cockade and a few feathers of the macaw and green parrot, a thin roana, blue trowsers, a large pair of steel spurs with long rowels, and san-

dals made of the bark of a tree, to protect his feet, and lastly, but not of the least importance in these immense plains, his lasso for taking cattle. One remarkably fine Spanish regiment of hussars, called after the beloved Ferdinand "the hussars of Ferdinand the Seventh", were nearly all destroyed by these cossacks of the plains of Apuré; and this was in a great measure owing to these hussars being encumbered with arms and appointments, each man having a lance, sword, carbine, and brace of pistols, with all the trapping and clothing of an Hungarian hussar, which were very ill-suited for a campaign in a tropical climate. The Llaneros, in charging the enemy, lay their head and body on the neck of the horse, and their lance is carried in an horizontal position, in the right hand, about the height of the knee. The hussars of Ferdinand were obliged to have their horses' tails cut short, like those in stage-waggons in England, and sometimes they left them merely a small dock without hair, as the Llaneros had on several occasions galloped up to a hussar, dismounted in an instant, and seizing the horse by

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LANCERS OF THE PLAINS OF APURÉ.

his long tail, thrown him, by a sudden jerk, on his side, and then despatched the rider on the ground. The Llaneros were commanded by the gallant General Paes, now governor of the province of Caraccas: a few of the oldest soldiers generally formed the body-guard of Bolivar. An officer in Bogotá, who had been aid-de-camp to Paes, gave me his history, which was rather a singular one.—General Paes was the son of a small tradesman in the province of Valencia, and on one occasion, when not more than seventeen or eighteen years of age, was sent by his father, with a few hundred Spanish dollars, to pay for some goods. He was mounted, and had taken the precaution of arming himself with a loaded pistol. On his road he was attacked by two robbers, also mounted; upon which he drew out his pistol, declaring that he would shoot the first man who attempted to lay hands on him. This threat he immediately put into execution, on one of the ruffians attempting to stab him. The other robber, on seeing his associate fall, made his escape. Paes, being much alarmed at having shot the robber, re-

solved not to return home, and left the country. Some time after he engaged himself as servant to a nobleman, who had large landed estates in Caraccas. In this situation he conducted himself so well, that he gradually gained the entire confidence of his master, and became his major-domo or head steward, and was in this capacity at the breaking out of the civil war, when he espoused the independent cause, and by the intrepidity, judgment, and zeal which he displayed on all occasions, he soon became a great favourite with General Bolivar, and was rapidly promoted to the rank of general.

General Paes is quite the Blucher of the Columbian army, particularly among his cossacks of the plains of Apuré, who have the utmost confidence in him as a leader and partisan. The general, in a charge, was generally the first in the ranks of the enemy, and as he was an admirable rider, very adroit in the use of his lance and in throwing the lasso, and although not tall, remarkably strong, his lance on most occasions made terrible havoc among the Spaniards, whom he never spared on account of

their cruelties to the Creoles. As it may naturally be supposed, the education of General Paes had not been very refined; he had much of the roughness and manner of a plain blunt soldier; but since his appointment to his present high command, I hear he has taken great pains with himself. He now speaks French tolerably well, and a little English. He is of a warm temper, but his heart is of the same temperament; he is very generous, and like most of his countrymen very fond of dress.

Two or three little anecdotes were related to me of Paes, which mark the character of the man. On one occasion he overtook in a skirmish a Spanish major of cavalry, who defended himself bravely, but when the general was just in the act of running the lance through him, he exclaimed, "Oh, general, if you had not been much better mounted than myself, I should have been an overmatch for you." On which the general said, "We will exchange horses and renew the fight." This was acceded to by the major, who no sooner found himself on the back of the general's horse, than he galloped off at full

speed, followed by his enemy, who, finding he was losing ground on the major's horse, threw his lasso at him, which caught the major and dismounted him; but as the general thought this scarcely fair play, and as his antagonist had defended himself well in their first rencontre, he gave him quarter, a favour seldom bestowed by the general or his lancers. On another occasion, soon after Morillo's arrival in Columbia, one of his men brought a hussar of Ferdinand the Seventh prisoner. They wore long beards to appear terrific: Paes enquired, in an angry tone, why he had given him quarter? To which the Llanero replied, "He was always ready to kill the Spanish soldiers, but his conscience would not allow him to despatch a Capuchin friar"—pointing at the long beard of the hussar. On which Paes, laughing, explained to his lancer that they were not friars, but regular cavalry soldiers, and desired him for the future to bring him no more Capuchin friars. However, he spared the hussar's life, who entered the Columbian service. Just before I left Columbia, General Paes had been

chosen senator; it is possible he may not acquire quite so many laurels in the senate-house as he did on the plains of Apuré against the Spaniards.

On the 1st of May, Colonel Campbell, Mr. Cade, and myself went by appointment, with our friend Father Candia, to see his convent at Bogotá of the order of St. Francisco. The convent is an immense pile of building; I do not recollect ever seeing one so large in Spain. Nearly two hours were taken up in our inspection, but Friar Candia informed us that the Franciscan convent at Quito, to the south of Columbia, was considerably larger than this. All its departments to me seemed well organized, consisting of chapels, two libraries, a sick ward, with medicine-room, refectory, &c. and Padre Candia was building for the sick—the Franciscan monks attend sick persons,—warm and cold baths, which seemed well planned. There were three large quadrangles; the walls of the corridors on the ground of the first quadrangle were adorned with large paintings in oil-colours, containing the history of St. Francisco, founder of the order.

These paintings were in general sad daubs, and the subject of some of them quite ridiculous. The walls of the corridor above this were hung with portraits of celebrated friars of this order; among the number I saw five who had filled the papal chair, Ganganelli was the last, and several cardinals. The portrait of Ganganelli was well painted; the colouring good. In this convent there are some fine paintings by a native of Bogotá, who may be considered the Murillo of this country. One Madona and infant Jesus is a charming picture; so much sweetness and tenderness in the countenance of the Madona, and the smile and innocence in the face of the infant Jesus is admirable. The colouring is mellow, the tints clear, and there is a striking character of truth and excellence in the whole composition. The painter of this picture, Basques, had been in Europe to study the works of the great masters in Italy; and when in Italy had given so much satisfaction to a pope, whose portrait he painted, that he sent him a large ring set with diamonds, having his miniature in it. The churches

and convents at Bogotá are full of his paintings, particularly a small church next to the cathedral; but many of his best pictures are placed in so bad a light they are not seen to advantage. Basques must have been a man of first rate genius as a painter, to have gained so much eminence in a country, and at a time, in which these acquirements were so little understood, and probably not much encouraged. He painted in the beginning of the last century. We were shown in this convent the cell of one of the friars, who had been viceroy of New Grenada, and had lived at Bogotá for some years in all the pomp and splendour of a prince, till being satiated with the vanities of the world, he gave up his high situation, and retired within the walls of the Franciscan convent; where, like the emperor Charles the Fifth, he ended his days in tranquillity. The Franciscans are a poor order, and are not allowed to have lands, houses, or other property. I suspect they do not live badly, some of the friars having famous corporations. A gentleman told me that when he resided some years before

at Caraccas, a Franciscan friar used to hold the bank at Mente at the captain-general's house, and that he generally had two bags with 1,000 doubloons in each, and that he has seen persons lose 50 and 60,000 dollars in an evening. At that time the Prince of Peace governed Spain, and all situations were sold.

I called one morning on the Marchioness Jose Maria Lozano with Mrs. General English. Our principal object was to see her house which was considered the best furnished in Bogotá. This certainly was the case; there was some very valuable old furniture in the apartments, and many small articles and engravings from England and France. The marchioness related to us with many a heavy sigh, for she was very fond of money, that she had been robbed in the winter of 40,000 dollars. Five men entered the house with masks about ten o'clock in the evening, secured all the slaves, then made the marchioness show them where her darling hoard was concealed, which they took possession of, and then very deliberately tied the old marchioness

down in a large arm chair, and wished her good night. These robbers remained undiscovered, which does not speak much for the vigilance of the police of the metropolis. The marquis, her husband, was a Creole, and had very large estates in the plain of Bogotá, and lived chiefly at one of his quintas, being of very retired and studious habits. I never had the pleasure of being introduced to the count, who was well informed, and had been two or three times to Spain.

A merchant shewed me a necklace of Panama pearls which were particularly fine in colour, shape, size, and evenness. He wanted 3000 dollars for the necklace, but, as he had a great deal of the Jew about him, I suspect he might have been tempted to part with them for 2000 dollars laid down on his counter. The pearls found in the oysters on the coast near Panama, are not so fine as the oriental pearls in colour, and they frequently turn yellow in a few years. I believe in no part of the world are the drop-pearls found so large and of so good a shape as at Panama, and when they match, will

fetch very high prices. Pearls found on the coast of Rio de la Hache are of a better colour than the Panama pearl, but in general they are not so large. The Goahiras Indians carry on a pearl fishery on this coast.

The climate of Bogotá may be considered a perpetual spring. In keeping a daily account of the thermometer for three months in a room, without a fire, in the shade, I seldom found it above 70° or under 56°; and in the dry season the mornings, from six to ten o'clock are quite delightful. Even in the rainy season the mornings are generally fine; the rain comes on about two or three o'clock in the afternoon, accompanied by loud thunder and vivid lightning, which frequently continues the greater part of the night. A walk early in the morning after a night's rain is very pleasant; the senses are regaled with odoriferous smells from a variety of wild aromatic shrubs, and the hedge-rows right and left of the road are loaded with a profusion of damask roses, which are in bloom nearly the whole year. You are also serenaded by a variety of birds

in this plain, which, like our European birds, make ample amends for their sober plumage, by the sweetness of their notes. Among these is the blackbird, very like our English bird, though of a lighter colour and rather larger size. I am not much of a florist, but I never saw in any part of Europe such a variety of fine carnations as the ladies of Bogotá have in pots round their balconies. The colours are beautiful, and some of the flowers very large. To adorn my balcony like those of my neighbours, I purchased fifty pots of carnations at a dollar each, and, as a lady, who was a connoisseur in plants, had the kindness to select them for me, I could boast of having some rare ones in my collection, which were taken great care of by a mulatto female servant. On a bright warm morning, I have seen the humming-birds fluttering like the dragon-fly over the flowers, catching the insects, and sipping honey-dew. The various hues reflected by the rays of the sun from their backs and breasts of purple and gold, appear, from the rapid motion of these small birds, most beautiful, and dazzle the eye. Until I

had seen the humming-bird at Bogotá, I thought it was never found in so cold a climate; but, in my solitary rambles in the mountains behind the town, I have frequently seen them at an elevation of 400 or 500 feet above it. On these occasions I much regretted not being a botanist, as these mountains were covered with shrubs and plants; some of them extremely beautiful in the formation of their foliage and in the colours of their flowers, although there would have been little chance of my making any new discoveries, as the celebrated botanist Mutis resided for many years at Bogotá, who was indefatigable in his researches after plants in the new world, and whose works and labours, unfortunately for Columbia, were all carried away by General Morillo, and sent to Madrid.

One morning I called at the quinta (or country-house) of Colonel Bario Nuevo, a Spaniard, who commanded the corps of artillery in Bogotá. The colonel was a mechanic, and knew something of mathematics. I was much pleased at observing a very ingenious contrivance of his to raise water from a

well in his yard by means of a rough hair line. A small wheel turns round with great velocity when set going by a spring, round which the hair line coils itself, throwing, at the same time, the water into a wooden spout in a sufficient quantity to fill a large patacha (or earthen jug) in a short time. He had also established an extensive tannery at this place, and was making a great deal of money by the tanning of hides. I was shewn a very pretty private chapel with two small fine paintings by Besques; I was much inclined to purchase the pictures, but the colonel asked too much money for them.

The dogs are so numerous in the streets of Bogotá, many of them without masters, picking up all the filth they can meet with, that the alcalde is obliged, occasionally, to send men in the evening armed with lances, to kill all they can find. On these occasions I was under great apprehensions for my pointer, Don, who would have met the same fate as the ugliest cur, from these destroyers of the canine race.

April 29th. Paid a visit to Señor Riviero, the director of the National Museum, who had just returned from an expedition on the banks of the river Meta, to survey it, and make astronomical observations. The Meta is distant four days from Bogotá over the mountains eastward, and after running a considerable distance through immense plains, discharges itself into the great river Oronooko. I was shewn by Mr. Riviero, a piece of the milk tree, some of the milk, and a piece of wax extracted from it. He had also a small calabash filled with the curacé (poison) given to him by some of the Indians who inhabit the banks of the river Meta, who make use of it for the points of their arrows and spears.

Mr. Riviero had been accompanied in this journey by two or three naturalists, French gentlemen in the Columbian service, and belonging to the National Museum. The former told me he had seen several birds and small animals killed by the Indians with their poisoned arrows, and that their death was almost instantaneous. I likewise saw one

of the hammocks of these Indians, called chilchonos: it was most ingeniously made of the bark of the palm-tree, the cords fine, but strong, and well adapted to sleep in in a hot climate: and some very beautiful tiger-cat skins, which he had purchased of the Indians. He had also a root called barbasco, found on the banks of this river, a decoction of which mixed in the waters of the Meta, enables the Indians to take great quantities of fish, which become intoxicated, and float on the surface of the river. This reminded me of my youthful days at Rugby, when I frequently waged war against the finny tribe in the river Avon, by putting cochlicus indicus in the large deep pools to make the fish drunk. The barbasco root has no effect upon the alligators or turtles. In the Meta is a very extraordinary little fish, called the caribbee; it is about six or seven inches in length, and so fierce and ravenous that it will immediately attack a person bathing, and where they are numerous, it is a service of danger going into the water. This fish is much esteemed by the Indians as food.—The wind for certain months of

the year, always blows from the north up the river Meta.

April 26th, the British Commissioners and Mr. Cade had the honour of dining with his Excellency the Vice-President of the State of Columbia. Invited to meet us were the President of the Senate and House of Congress, and many of the most distinguished characters of both houses, several generals, judges, and all the etat-major of the capital. The dinner was most sumptuous, but not exactly suited to an English palate, and the fish formed a sort of rear-guard, instead of occupying an advanced post, according to our fashion. The favourite Spanish dish called the olla podrída I liked exceedingly; it consisted of boiled fowls, bacon, beef and mutton, and a variety of vegetables all heaped together in the same dish, but the cookery is plain, and free from garlick and oil. As usual, we walked about between the courses, and then renewed the attack on the poultry and sweetmeats, which were excellent to the taste, and beautiful to the eye. I heard afterwards that the dulces or sweetmeats, with

the pastry, cost the Vice-President 400 dollars (eighty pounds). Many toasts were given at dinner and afterwards by His Excellency the Vice-President and different members of the Senate and House of Congress, some particularly complimentary to the English nation. The Creoles have a happy knack of expressing a great deal in few words in their toasts, and their language is in general elegant and appropriate. I was really surprised to hear with what freedom and self-confidence these gentlemen spoke their sentiments. The Vice-President did the honours of his table remarkably well, setting all his guests at their ease.

The dining-room was long, lofty, and narrow, and on the walls were painted the names of Columbian generals and colonels who had fallen in the cause of independence; and the names of the places where the principal victories had been gained. I observed on the wall opposite to where I sat, "Carabobo", which victory was chiefly gained by the gallantry of an English battalion, now called the "Regiment of Carabobo." I had the honor

of proposing the health of the President Bolivar, which was drunk with enthusiasm by every one, and we parted soon after in high glee, well pleased with our host and his entertainment.

The next day there was a terrible fracas in the House of Congress, in consequence of a motion being made by a member to investigate the conduct of the President Herrera, accused of receiving bribes in his judicial situation, and that he should quit the president's chair during the investigation; this Señor Herrera refused to do, and the tumult was at last so great that the house was obliged to break up without coming to any decision on the question. Colonel Campbell saw the whole affair, and said it was a complete bear-garden. At the sitting of the House of Congress next day, the President Herrera was deposed, and a special committee appointed to investigate his conduct.

In this week a decree passed the senate and congress to dispose of part of the church plate and other properties mortgaged to the different monastic institutions. The government calculated on getting

1,000,000 dollars by these means. The legislative body ought to have been assembled on the 2d January 1824, but it was not constitutionally installed until some time in April, from the want of the proper number of members.

During this time the daily expences of the government to the members who had arrived in Bogotá, amounted to 11,868 dollars, viz.:

To the members of the Senate	2136
Ditto of the Chamber	9732
	11868

Those members who did not arrive at Bogotá on the day of assembling, were to be heavily fined, unless prevented by sickness.

A few days after this, Colonel Campbell and myself were invited by Señor Pepé Paris, to go with him to see the famous lake of Guativata, which he had been endeavouring to drain for the last two or three years, in the expectation of finding golden Indian idols by wholesale, and also ingots of gold,

supposed to have been thrown there by the Indian caciques in their religious ceremonies, and to diminish the plunder of their conquerors, the Spaniards. A company had been formed at Bogotá, under the direction of Señor Pepé Paris, to raise a sufficient sum for the draining of the lake of Guatavita. The shares were at 2000 dollars, and like many of those of the mining companies in this country, were at one time at a considerable premium, but before I left Bogotá had diminished much in value. Our party consisted, besides those above named, of Mr. Riviero, the mineralogist, and Dr. Cheyne, a young Scotch physician, who had lately arrived at Bogotá to practise. Mr. Cade declined going.

We arrived at half past nine at El Cedro, a small country house, where Señor Pepé Paris had provided a breakfast. El Cedro lies to the north of Bogotá. On leaving El Cedro, we crossed some mountains to the NE. over a very bad road, and found ourselves in a rich fertile valley, well watered. We then ascended another ridge of mountains, and descended into the extensive valley of Guatavita, and reached

the village of that name about four o'clock in the afternoon; distant from Bogotá about thirty miles in an ENE. direction. A short distance from the village of Guativata we met a Franciscan friar, who was officiating for the curé: he was on horseback, followed by about forty farmers well mounted. The friar addressed us in a short speech, hoping that our arrival in Columbia would be for the benefit of his country, and bidding us welcome to Guatavita. We then proceeded to the curé's house, in front of which were assembled all the Indians, for this was an Indian village. There were two of them playing on their national instrument, the chirimia (small drum and flute), and others were letting off squibs and crackers. The farmers passed the curé's house in file, then formed, took off their hats, and gave three hearty cheers, in which the Indians and ourselves joined. They then exclaimed "Vive la nacion Inglese, amigos de la Republica de Columbia" (Prosperity to the English nation, friends of the Republic of Columbia). We had every thing provided for us in the curé's house, where we slept that

night. The living of Guatavita is worth annually 3000 dollars.

The Indians in this part appear a miserable race, whose spirits have been thoroughly subdued by the oppression and cruelty of the first Spanish conquerors. If you ask one of these Indians a question, he answers " Si, mi amo—No, mi amo "—(yes, my master—no, my master) in the most submissive tone. The Indian huts in this village were filthy within, and the inmates wretchedly poor.

In the gallery of the curé, I was rather surprised to see a large print of George the Second, mounted on a prancing charger; for such was the superstition of the people of this country at one time, that a priest would have thought his house defiled by having even the print of a heretic prince in it. The small river of Guatavita runs close by this village in an ENE. direction, and then winds round to SSW. by the village of Esquiba, and enters the plain of Bogotá, which name it then takes. Iron and coal are found near the village of Guatavita, and the latter burns something like pitch, or the

Kendal coal. There were also several mineral springs near the village; the heat of some of the water being 63°.

About a fortnight before our arrival, a sad accident occurred to one of the Indians, who was adorning with flowers a large stone cross in front of the curé's house, in expectation of the visit of the British Commissioners. One large stone of the cross gave way, and falling on the Indian's head, killed him on the spot. The poor man left a wife and two children. We of course made a subscription for her, and left it in the hands of the Franciscan friar.

We left Guatavita at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, and arrived at nine to breakfast at a cottage built by Señor Pepe Paris near the lake. In our way to this village, we passed by the spot where once stood the Indian town of Chilacho, which, previous to the conquest of the country by the Spaniards, was inhabited almost entirely by Indians, who traded in gold and silver. After breakfast we walked to the lake of Guatavita, distant about a

quarter of a mile. The view of the lake from the side where the excavations have been made is pleasing, although sombre; it appears round, in the shape of a punch-bowl, surrounded by mountains on all sides, apparently two or three hundred feet high, and wooded to their summits; the water of the lake was as smooth as glass—not the slightest ripple on it, and very clear. On one side of the lake was pointed out to me the steps made by the Indians for ascending and descending when their caciques, nobles, and priests of the people came to perform their idolatrous rites, to appease the evil spirits, which they supposed inhabited the waters of the Guatavita. We crossed the lake in a small flat-bottomed boat, in doing which I looked particularly sharp in the shallow parts, to endeavour to discover some of the golden idols, but all in vain. The centre of the lake is about twenty-seven feet deep, and there the gold is supposed to be in great quantities. On the other side of the lake, we inspected a row of large piles that had been driven in by the Spaniards, about fifty years after the conquest of the country,

with the same object as that of our friend Pepé Paris, but merely to drain a part of the lake that was rather shallow, which the Spaniards succeeded in doing, and got up a considerable quantity of gold, one-fifth of which, amounting to 3000 dollars, was paid into the royal treasury at Bogotá as the king of Spain's share. An official document was found in the archives at Bogotá corroborating this fact. Colonel Campbell and Dr. Cheyne bathed in the lake, and found the water cold.

The cut made by Pepé Paris is in the side of the mountain, in an ENE. direction. It is upwards of three years since he commenced this great undertaking, much of which time was employed, at no small expense, in endeavouring to cut through a hill, to let out the water of the lake, but as the opening had not sufficient slope, the rocks and earth fell in seven times. As his design had no chance of success this way, he was advised to dig a subterraneous channel, about thirty feet lower than the bed of the lake, in the same direction he had taken in making the first fissure, which at the

time we were there he had nearly accomplished; but I afterwards learnt that some unforeseen misfortune had occurred, so that I fear poor Señor Pepé Paris, unless he gets some good engineer from England to direct his excavations, will, like the dog in the fable, throw away his real substance for the shadow in the water. I heartily wish he may succeed at last; he deserves to possess a good fortune, being a most liberal good-natured man, particularly attentive to foreigners, and a great friend of Bolivar's, as he was also of the late Captain Cochrane, R.N. who had some shares in this scheme, and resided for nearly a month in the miserable cottage built by Señor Paris in the mountains near the lake, to superintend and direct the Indians in their work. I have no doubt that gold may be found in the lake of Guatavita, should it ever be drained of its water; whether in sufficient quantity to repay the share-holders and remunerate them, is doubtful. One reason is, that the Indians could not possess any large quantity of gold in these districts. Their nearest gold-

mines are distant four or five days' journey from Bogotá, in the province of Mariquita, and these I understand have never been worked much in any way, but the earth and sand have only been washed for gold-dust; on a plain of which they tell you the town of Mariquita is built, and of which you are sure to find traces if you dig up some earth in the streets, and wash it in a bowl. This may be; but I have frequently found a little exaggeration in their stories. Mariquita is a ride of two or three hours' distance from the town of Honda, over a fine plain. Deer and tiger-cats are numerous in the forests in the vicinity of the lake of Guatavita.

On the same day, our party visited the quinta of Mr. Montoyo (brother to the gentleman who was in England to raise the last Columbian loan); its situation was on an eminence, surrounded with large pasture-grounds, in which were a great many brood mares, stallions, and colts, as the income of the property chiefly arose from the sale of horses bred on the estate. Mr. Montoyo was esteemed a very

rich merchant at Bogotá, and we found ourselves, like his horses, living in clover. The management of the stock seemed very judicious: the major-domo of the estate and his assistants, on horseback, called them all into large bamboo pens, to examine whether the animals had received any kicks, bites, or wounds. Two hundred pounds are sometimes given for a stallion. Some of them were handsome, with much bone, but small. An importation of large thorough-bred horses from England would greatly improve the breed in Columbia.

The next day we took our leave of Mr. Montoyo, and steered our course towards Sapaquiera, to see the great salt-works near that town. We arrived at three o'clock, and took up our quarters at the governor's house, Colonel Barriga of the militia. The population of Sapaquiera amounts to 6000 persons, and that of the district to 14,000. There are three squadrons of lancers (militia) in the neighbourhood, which are exercised every Sunday by Colonel Barriga. The salt-works are well worth seeing, and from the excavations made in the mountains, it ap-

pears one large mass of salt, mixed with pyrites and sulphur, which is sent to a vast distance, even to the valley of Cauca, and the province of Choco, on the Pacific; as near the former place, I afterwards met bullocks laden with salt from Sapaquiera. An arróba of salt (25lbs.) is here worth six reals (2*s*. 6*d*.). The Indians, who carry the salt water in pig-skins from the salt-works to the boiling-houses, get two reals for forty loads. We here saw fine specimens of the pyrites in a mixture of iron and sulphur, an abundance of the latter being procured in these salt-works. On an average of years, these salt-works pay the government a net revenue of 120,000 hard dollars; and what is very singular, the process used to extract the salt has not varied since the time of the Indians, aborigines of the country. Large earthen pots are filled with salt water, and put on holes in a row above the fire—the adjacent mountains supply plenty of fuel; as the water evaporates, the salt is found. They continue replenishing the pots with salt water, until the vessel is filled with a solid mass of salt, the pots are

then broken to get the salt, which causes an expense of 4000 or 5000 dollars per annum. I believe Colonel Johnstone, and some other foreigners, have hired these salt-works of the government for a term of years, and intend using iron pots for the evaporation of the salt water, which will considerably diminish the expense of the operation. This is a speculation I should think likely to answer, as the demand for salt will increase with the population. There are also salt-mines about two leagues from Bogotá, but the government does not allow them to be worked. The Spaniards began building a large church at Sapaquiera twenty years ago; 15,000 dollars were allowed annually by the viceroy from the salt-works towards the erection, but it is not half finished, nor likely to be so. The Spaniards often commenced gigantic undertakings in Spain, but seldom went through with them.

The celebrated emerald mines of Moussa are twenty leagues from Sapaquiera, and I regretted exceedingly that I could not accompany Señor Pepé Paris and Mr. Riviero, who were to leave us

the next day to visit them, when the latter gentleman was to examine them. These mines are also let to some gentlemen for ten or twenty years. Shortly before our arrival at Sapaquiera, an Indian ploughed up in a field, sixty small Indian idols of gold; one of them was given me by a gentleman of the place, which I presented to Colonel Campbell. The natives of the province of Antioquia are very expert in discovering the graves of the Indians buried before the conquest, which on opening they frequently find to contain a considerable number of golden idols, ornaments, &c. As this part of the plain of Bogotá is extremely fertile, the large fields are covered with cattle in all directions, which fatten within three months on these luxuriant pastures. An arróba of beef (25lbs.) is worth here not more than six reals.

In returning to the capital the next day, we swam our horses and mules across the river Bogotá, which we crossed on a raft covered with rushes. On the left of the road we saw the

quinta of His Excellency the Vice-President; he had a fine estate of grazing ground surrounding it.

At ten o'clock we halted at the village of Cea, at the house of the curé, where we found breakfast ready for us after the Spanish fashion, consisting of fried eggs and plantains, broiled fowls, salt-beef, potatoes, &c. and finished by a small cup of thick chocolate. We were not a little surprised at the display of plate made by the curé. The plates, dishes, and cups, were all silver and very heavy. The curé told me they were in the end much cheaper than china, which was very dear and scarce in the interior of the country. Here Señor Pepé Paris and Mr. Riviero quitted us on their route to Moussa. Cea is a large Indian village; most of the cottages are nearly concealed by orchards of apple-trees, the fruit of which is sent for sale to the market of Bogotá. At five in the afternoon we reached home, but not without a complete drenching; for it rained hard the whole of the

time, which made it very slippery for the horses' feet.

In this week I saw one of the bull-fights in the Great Square in front of my house, but as I had already seen this national amusement in Spain, where the bulls of Andalusia are particularly fierce and active, the riders excellent, and the bulls allowed the free range of the arena, I was rather disappointed at the exhibition. The bull was led into the square by a man on horseback, who had a laso fixed round the lower part of the horns of the animal. The laso was of considerable length, to allow the bull to attack the piccadore, who has a small bandera (or flag) in his left hand, which he waves about to occupy the attention of the bull; and to irritate him when he makes a furious charge at the piccadore with his head to the ground, he dexterously throws a small javelin or dart into his neck, and springs on one side. At one end of the dart is a cracker, which goes off immediately, and renders the animal more furious in attacking his assailant: but on these occasions the bull has scarcely fair play;

for as soon as the horseman observes the piccadore in danger of being overtaken, he checks his horse with a severe pastucian bit, and the well-trained animal instantly turns a little on one side, plants his feet in the best position for resisting the strength of the bull in his exertions to reach the piccadore: and this part is so well arranged by the rider and the horse, that I have frequently seen the bull thrown on his side with such force as to lie for some time as if he had been shot. In witnessing the lasoing of the wild horses and cattle in the immense plains of South America, the excellent training of the horses has always excited my admiration, particularly the position the horse assumes, when the animal is lasoed, in order to bring him to the ground without falling himself. The laso is fixed to the hind part of the saddle with a strong iron ring. On one occasion I saw an officer in uniform brought to the ground by the bull, and every one expected he would have been killed; but fortunately for him the bull vented his rage on the poor horse, which was wounded, while the rider escaped on

foot. The boys are constantly practising with a small laso in the farm-yards, by throwing at the pigs, poultry, &c. One day I saw in the great market-place a pig manœuvre wonderfully well, to avoid the laso thrown at him by an Indian, who did not succeed in catching him till the seventh throw.

Called on Mr. Riviero at the National Museum, where I saw the body of an Indian cacique, which had been recently dug up near the town of Tunja. It was in excellent preservation. The body was found enveloped in a large piece of cotton cloth, of different colours, and must have been buried before the conquest of the country by the Spaniards, as Mr. Riviero informed me that no cloth of this manufacture had ever been seen by the Creoles. The body was in a sitting posture, and the knees nearly touched the chin.

Saturday, 11th June, gave a dinner to His Excellency the Vice-President, and twenty-four members of the senate and the lower house; the ministers also and some of the principal officers were of

the party. As this was my first public dinner since my arrival at Bogotá, I felt anxious it should go off well, which appeared to me to be the case, with the assistance of a few bottles of champagne, as we all parted in excellent spirits.

About this time I saw a man and woman walking by my house, who were to be shot in the Square of the Franciscans; they were carrying crosses; there were friars on each side, exhorting them to pray to Heaven for pardon of their sins, while they were guarded by an escort of soldiers. To indulge more freely in a criminal intercourse, the woman had joined her paramour in the murder of his wife; who had been first stabbed in the throat, and then hanged on a beam in the house. The girl was not more than nineteen years old, and had rather an interesting countenance. I was told that this guilty couple died penitent.

At Bogotá, like the towns in Spain, the ringing of bells is incessant from the different convents and churches, and at nine in the morning and six in the evening, when the bell tolls, the lower class of peo-

ple in the streets, take off their hats, and say their prayers to themselves. They also take off their hats in passing a church or convent. The government has certainly displayed a prudent and wise policy in suppressing almost all the provincial convents, and appropriating to itself their revenues, and in collecting the cowled brotherhood to the capital, where their conduct can be closely watched, and intrigue prevented. These drones have already lost much of their influence, even among the lower classes. I do not recollect ever meeting a monk in the best society at Bogotá, as you do in Spain, where there are family confessors among the first class of grandees, who frequently acquire in that capacity great influence and power.

From what I was told of the friars in South America, they seem to have led, under the Spanish government, as dissolute a life in the new world as in the old. A few years before, a Dominican friar seduced seven young girls at Bogotá, to whom he acted as father confessor. They were all pregnant nearly at the same time. The parents and friends

of the girls complained of his conduct to the Bishop of Bogotá, who sent him to Spain, to be punished by the Inquisition, but when the padre arrived there, he contrived to make out so good a case for himself, backed by a considerable bribe, that he escaped with only a severe reprimand and an order to mortify the flesh for the future. He afterwards returned to a convent in Carthagena, where he probably continued in the indulgence of his licentious amours. Another monk of one of the monasteries in Bogotá was struck by the charms of a very pretty girl of the middling class, but as her affections were engaged, the addresses of the friar met with no encouragement from the young lady. All his overtures and solicitations being constantly rejected, he at last contrived to bribe a female slave in the family, and found from her that his rival was to be admitted on a certain night to the house of his mistress. On that night he prevailed on the slave to introduce him secretly into the house in disguise. He was armed with a brace of pistols, and concealed in a small closet in the lady's bed-

room. At twelve o'clock the lover made his appearance, when the enraged friar immediately burst from the place of concealment, and instantly fired at his rival. The young man rushed on the assassin before he could discharge the second pistol, and after a severe struggle, in which he was assisted by his mistress, disarmed him, and forced him to yield. On examining the countenance of the disguised intruder, the lady recognized, to her infinite astonishment, her importunate monastic lover; which was no sooner made known to the young man, than, with the assistance of a servant, he stripped him, gave him a sound flagellation, and turned him into the streets in Adam's garb. These anecdotes were related to me by a gentleman of rank in Bogotá, one day as we were riding by the monastery.

It is almost unreasonable to expect that in so large a body of men there should not be some evil-disposed. Many of them are in the prime of life, live on the fat of the land, lead a life of indolence, and as confessors, gain admittance into private families, and learn the frailties of the fair ones they shrive.

However, some of the younger monks displayed great spirit and energy during the war, in the cause of independence, quitting their convents and assuming the garb of military men. I was well acquainted with Colonel Blanco, one of the best officers in the Columbian service:—he was a friar when the revolution commenced, and in his military career had greatly distinguished himself. The features of Colonel Blanco were marked and striking, his manners mild and unassuming, and in conversation you found him well-informed, particularly as regarded the moral and physical state of Columbia. One day the colonel would display all the bravery of a grenadier in the field, and the next he was found in the pulpit, pouring forth his rhetoric and eloquence to animate the soldiers, and increase their zeal for the cause in which they were fighting. Such a man was the most formidable enemy to the Spaniards, having a sort of double tie on the passions of the soldiers.

A gentleman sent me the skin of a snake, which I measured, and found to be twenty-three feet long

without the head, which unfortunately the Indians had cut off. Its diameter was considerable, but as the skin was shrunk, I could not ascertain its dimensions. It was covered with scales, and very thick. The colour a dirty brown, mixed with black stripes. This snake was killed in the plains of Casinare, and was of the boa constrictor species. Its bite is not venomous, but it kills deer and other animals by twisting round them, and by its great strength crushes them to death. No country I believe abounds with more venomous snakes than South America. Fortunately the natives possess an antidote to their poison, which they either take inwardly or apply to the wound. There is a curious account given by the Creoles, explaining the manner in which this antidote was discovered. In the province of Antioquia, an Indian was at work in a forest, when his attention was arrested by a combat between a small bird called a snake-hawk and a snake. He observed that whenever the hawk was bitten by the snake in the conflict, he immediately flew to a small tree called guacco, devoured some of its

berries, and after a short interval renewed the fight with his enemy, and in the end succeeded in killing the snake, which he ate. It naturally occurred to the mind of the Indian that a decoction of these berries would probably prove a specific for the cure of the poison, in cases where people had been bitten by rattle-snakes or other venomous serpents. He afterwards made the experiment on an Indian bitten by a coral-snake, and it fully answered his expectation. In those provinces where snakes abound, particularly in those of Buenaventura and Choco, the Indians and negroes always carry with them this decoction, or some other antidote to the poison, as they run great risk of being bitten when working in the forests or cocoa plantations, from their legs being uncovered, and the soles of their feet only protected by albárcas*. I believe few snakes will attack a man unless he goes very near them, or happens to tread on them.

By an order from the king of Spain, a convict

* Albárcas are shoes worn by mountaineers and others, tied to their feet.

condemned to suffer death for assassination had his hands put into a bowl, in which were placed two or three of the most venomous snakes: the moment the man was bitten, he swallowed some of the decoction of these berries, and felt no inconvenience from the wounds. His life was spared, but he was condemned to hard labour during the remainder of it. A large quantity of salt taken inwardly is considered an antidote to poisonous bites. I have heard that there is a small animal of the weazel kind that mostly lives on snakes, and has desperate battles with the cobra capella, and that when he gets a bite, he, like the snake-hawk of America, runs to a particular root, of which he eats, and after a little while renews the contest.

There are a great variety of monkeys in South America with tails, but no apes. My friends knowing I was fond of birds and animals, were so obliging as to send me a great many. I have had four or five monkeys of different species arrive in a morning from Señor Borero, member of congress for the province of Neyva, which lies to the sw. of Bo-

had been found the next morning thrown over a bridge, at the end of the street called St. Juan de Deôs, into a small stream of St. Francisco, with a deep wound over his right temple. Colonel Infanté had been a slave in Venezuela: at the breaking out of the civil war he ran away from his master and entered the Columbian service. On account of his bravery he had been promoted to the rank of full colonel. Whilst serving in a corps of lancers under General Bolivar, his ferocious disposition rendered him the terror of every place where he had been stationed, and particularly in that quarter of the town of Bogotá where he had resided some time. It was currently reported that the colonel had a gang of desperadoes, of the same colour as himself, who were at all times ready to act as the instruments of his vengeance, against any person who might unfortunately have incurred his displeasure; and it was generally supposed that Infanté was kept in the capital to be under the surveillance of the government. The crime for which he was now apprehended was committed from jealousy; he had

suspected that the captain was a favoured rival with one of his mistresses. The Bogotians were highly pleased when they heard of the colonel's apprehension. Some months after, I saw him shot for this crime in the Great Square before my house.

July 30th, I gave a dress-ball and supper to His Excellency the Vice-President, ministers, members of both houses, and to all the fashionables of Bogotá. In order to keep the company as select as possible, two ladies of rank gave me the list of persons to be invited. This dress-ball proved a lucrative concern for the tailors, who were busily employed, for the first time, in making breeches. We were not a little amused at a dashing young Frenchman appearing in a pair of white satin trowsers. An old gentleman apologized for not attending the ball, by saying the tailors had so much work on their hands he could not get his breeches made.

August 9th. Nothing but pleasure and gaiety the whole preceding week: on every day there was either a dinner-party, ball, tertulia, or concert. On the 7th His Excellency the Vice-President, and all

the officers of state, civil and military, went in much state from the palace to the great cathedral, to return thanks for the victory of Bojaca, gained by Bolivar over the Spanish General Don José Maria Barreyo, in August 1819. The general was afterwards shot, with thirty-eight other Spanish officers, in the Great Square; and as a friar had been turbulent, and active in supporting the Spaniards, he was added to the number, making forty. It is really dreadful to reflect on the sanguinary manner in which the war was carried on at this time between the contending parties. The fate of General Barreyo I believe was much regretted by the Bogotian ladies. He had once commanded the garrison of Bogotá, was remarkably handsome, not more than thirty years old, and a man of great gallantry: he was called "El Adonis de las mugeres" (the Adonis of the women). When brought out to be shot he displayed great firmness.

The important victory of Bojaca gave Bolivar the possession of the whole of New Grenada, and he entered Bogotá the 11th of August. The vice-

roy, Sarnano, had fled from the capital with the royal audiéncïa, with the guards of honour, the garrison, and civilians, towards the river Magdalena, on his way to Carthagena, leaving in his precipitate flight a considerable sum of money in the mint (half a million of dollars), many important state-papers, much military equipment, and even his large gold-headed cane. The capture of Bogotá was of the utmost importance to Bolivar at this critical period; his army, brave but small, had suffered exceedingly from long marches, bad living, and much fighting. I was acquainted with Colonel Manby, of the battalion of Albions, who told me that they formed the advanced-guard of Bolivar's army when he entered Bogotá, and that they had not a pair of shoes and stockings in the whole battalion; the officers wearing alpargátes *.

In the evening of the 7th His Excellency the Vice-President gave a splendid ball and supper to all the respectable inhabitants and strangers of Bogotá, and the merry dance was kept up until late, in

* A sort of buskin made of packthread, and often of rushes.

the morning. There were some very handsome women at this ball, many of whom were particularly well dressed, "à la Françoise". On this occasion I saw a great many females in tapadoes, or a dress with the head covered, who remained in another room, and were only spectators of the dance. The Vice-President is a good dancer, and very fond of the amusement.

On the next day Señor Rastrapo, Minister of the Interior, dined with me, and brought with him a piece of gold weighing a pound and a quarter, found in a mine in the province of Antioquia. This was the largest specimen I had ever seen, but I was afterwards shewn at the Treasury one mass of pure gold weighing rather more than four pounds, which was found in a mine, in the province of Venezuela, the richest in Columbia, belonging to Señor Pedro Gual and Mr. Arrublas. The sight of this treasure would prove a sort of cordial to the drooping spirits of holders of shares in the different mining companies formed in Mexico, Columbia, and Peru. With patience, perseverance, and a large capital,

some of these speculations may perhaps turn out well; but I suspect many of the mines advertised as belonging to mining companies, exist only in the brain of those who formed them. The people of Europe formed the most extravagant ideas of the riches of South America, probably from the perusal of books, giving an account of the rich Spanish galleons which used to arrive annually at Cadiz, laden with some millions of dollars, from Vera Cruz and the Havannah. But they must recollect this was the produce of most of the best mines of Mexico and Peru, and that a very considerable part of the treasure belonged to private individuals and merchants. I was amused by a story told me by an English officer in the service of Columbia of one of his soldiers, who was an Irishman:—Paddy walking one day through the streets of Caraccas, chanced to see a dollar on the ground: he kicked it on one side with much contempt, exclaiming, "By J—— I came to the Americas for gold; I'll not tarnish my fingers with silver coin."

Señor Rastrapo, Minister of the Interior, is of a

good family in the province of Antioquia, and had been brought up to the law. He spoke French and English tolerably well; the latter he had learnt in the United States. He had suffered much during the civil war, and was for a considerable time detained prisoner by the Spaniards; in the course of which period he had been sometimes obliged to work hard at the fortifications. He was anxious to eradicate all the narrow-minded prejudices imbibed by the middling and lower classes of people under the government of the Spanish viceroys, friars, and priests, and no man was more exemplary in his conduct than this minister. He was never seen at the gaming-table. His time was now much occupied in writing the history of the civil war, which had terminated in the freedom of his country. I know no one better calculated for the performance of this difficult task, as he possesses much judgment and discrimination, great industry, and a dispassionate mind. The work will be printed in England; he told me he had finished the first part.

This night we were to have had a play performed

by some young amateurs at the public theatre: unfortunately, a young man who was to have sustained one of the principal characters shot himself through the head in playing with a loaded pistol. The lady to whom he was engaged to be married had a miraculous escape, as he had presented it at her twice, en badinage, and pulled the trigger, not knowing it was loaded. The theatre at Bogotá is very pretty, and neatly fitted up, but from the want of comedians, it was shut up during my residence there, excepting on one or two occasions when we had masked balls, and it was always open during the carnival.

In this week I attended at the Church of St. Pablo, to hear the public examination of some of the students of the college by His Excellency the Vice-President, the Bishop of Merida, the Ministers of Finance and the Interior, and some Members of the Senate and Congress. The principal subjects of examination were governments and the connexions between the senate-house of congress and the executive. The students were likewise examined in theology, mathematics, modern history, and logic;

that of Aristotle is exploded. There are two public colleges at Bogotá at which young men are educated, who come from all parts of the republic. The students wear gowns and caps—those of one college a white scarf, and of the other a red one. Under the Spanish government, the college of St. Bartolomo was for the education of the sons of the nobility, and the other for the middling classes; at present there is no distinction made. The buildings are very large, but no taste is displayed in the architecture.

On the 3d of August the sessions of the senate and congress broke up. I attended in the evening the house of congress, and heard a short speech from the president to the members, giving them their congé.

On the 9th of August all the troops of the garrison assembled about a league and a half from the Maracaibo road, where a sham fight took place in honour of the victory of Bojarca. The Vice-President commanded one part of the troops, and Colonel Paris the other. The ground was hilly, and broken

with large rocks, and particularly favourable for the movement of light troops; and being on a declivity, the effect was very good for the spectators stationed in the road below. Two or three serious accidents occurred, from some of the militia-men loading their pieces with small stones, by which some artillery-men were severely wounded. When the spectators heard of this, they all kept at a respectful distance from the contending armies. Our astonishment was great at observing Colonel Blanco, ci-devant friar, on the ground on horseback, with the supreme judge of the high court "en croupe" behind him! What would the good people of this country think, if they were to see the Lord Chancellor riding behind the adjutant-general at a review at Hounslow before his Majesty? Here it was thought nothing of. Fortunately the day was remarkably fine. Many ladies were on horseback to see the fight. At the conclusion of the battle the Vice-President gave a cold collation on the ground, with plenty of champagne, and the soldiers had a dinner and good allowance of chicha. In the morning of

this day the Vice-President had breakfasted after the fashion of the Llaneros, or lancers of the plains of Apuré. The steaks of the bullock were broiled by the soldiers, and presented to him on a wooden skewer, from which he conveyed the meat to his mouth with his fingers, but on this occasion bread and salt were allowed.

On the 13th of August Colonel Infanté was condemned to be shot, by order of a court-martial, for the murder of Captain Perdoné. It was necessary that this sentence should be confirmed by the judge of the high court and the Vice-President.

On Sunday, August 22d, I went with Mrs. General English to the house of Colonel Narvaez, whose wife was to be godmother to a very pretty girl of seventeen, who was to take the veil, and become a nun of the order of Conception that afternoon. At half past three the young lady, elegantly dressed in white, her person adorned with a profusion of pearls, emeralds, &c. accompanied by Colonel Narvaez, her parents, relations, and friends, Mrs. English and myself, walked in procession from

the colonel's house to the convent, a band of music playing in the streets, and fire-works let off in front of the convent on our arrival. We all remained seated in one of the chapels near a door leading into her future abode, which door she was soon to pass for the last time. During this time, the poor girl conversed cheerfully with her relations and friends, and as I sometimes caught a glance from her fine dark and expressive eyes, I could not help looking at her with compassion, detesting from my soul a practice that could bury alive a human being in the bloom of health and beauty. These reflections made me feel quite low-spirited, and many of the party, as the time for the ceremony to take place approached, seemed absorbed in serious thought. At a little after four the priests came from the altar of the chapel with lighted wax candles, chaunting hymns, to receive this victim of cruel superstition, who walked back with the priests, when all went on their knees and prayed for a considerable time. As soon as this was over, the young lady returned with the priests, and knocked at the small door of the

convent nine times, which was opened by the lady abbess, and she entered her living tomb. Through an iron grating which was uncovered I saw twenty nuns, each holding a lighted taper, who on receiving the new inmate, retired chaunting hymns, accompanied by a fine organ, which had a powerful and melancholy effect on my mind. The company now retired to the refectory of the convent, where we found prepared for us chocolate, sweetmeats, orgeat, lemonade, &c. and I had the pleasure of conversing with the lady abbess for some time, who asked me many questions about England and our manners and customs. She had her black veil over her face, but I suspect she was not very young. In another apartment there were refreshments for the priests and some gentlemen, but as a great favour I had been admitted into the refectory. In about half an hour we received a summons to return into the chapel, where the new nun was habited in the dress of her order, in which I think she looked more interesting than when I had seen her set off with all the ornaments of fashion. All her flowing locks

were now cut off, and a close coarse cap, covering part of her forehead and the sides of her face, was fastened under her chin. The hood and body of her dress were fine white flannels, with a large row of beads and a crucifix hanging at her side. Colonel Narvaez asked the poor girl if she repented of her vows? To which she replied, with a melancholy smile, " Not at all." An old nun standing by observed significantly " Ella no sabe lo que ha hecho " (she does not know what she has done). We then took leave of the young nun.

Through some of the gratings of the balconies round the chapel I observed several pairs of sparkling black eyes, which I was informed were young novitiates'. For the first week or ten days after a female takes the veil her relations are permitted to see and converse with her, but after that time the company of all, excepting her mother, is forbidden, whose visits are restricted to once a-month. The order of Conception is less severe than some others, and the nuns are allowed female servants.

August 22d. Went with a large party of sports-

men, including Mr. Anderson, the American minister, to the village of Fontabon, about three leagues from Bogotá, to shoot wild fowl. Colonel Desmanard, a French gentleman acting as agent to the house of Powles, Herring, and Co. gave us an excellent déjeûner à la fourchette at Fontabon, which he had sent from Bogotá. We then commenced our operations against the wild ducks, widgeon, and teal, and bagged in a few hours forty head: a great many were wounded, and lost for want of a good retriever. My young secretary, Mr. Illingsworth, and myself, went up to our middles in water, although advised against it by some gentlemen of Bogotá, who predicted that we should be attacked the next day by intermittent fevers, but the keenness for sport got the better of prudence, and we were all well the next day, except being a little heated from the violent exercise we had taken.

The wild ducks are in prodigious quantities on the lakes in the plain of Bogotá, but it is difficult to get at them on the large sheets of water, where there

is no cover of reeds or rushes. I saw several brace of snipes, but they were wild and shy. They are the full snipes, but the plumage on their backs is darker than that of the same species which visit England every winter. The Indians take them with springes, and entrap the wild ducks by wading quietly up to their necks in water, their heads covered with a sort of cap made of rushes, and when near the duck, they pull it gently by the legs under water, and put it into a large bag which they carry in front. Caps exactly like their own are allowed to float about, to accustom the ducks to the sight of them. Messrs. Desmanard and Illingsworth gave a large dinner after our day's shooting, which was attended by some of the ministers and their ladies, one consul-general and his family.

During my residence in Columbia, the President Bolivar was in Peru, commanding the independent army composed of Columbian and Peruvian troops opposed to the Spanish army under the command of the Viceroy La Cerne and General Canteiac. I regretted exceedingly not having had the good for-

tune to be personally acquainted with Bolivar, who is at this time, without any disparagement to other highly gifted men in America, the greatest man and most extraordinary character which the New World has ever produced. Bolivar is descended from one of the oldest Spanish families in Caraccas termed "Mantuanoes", to shew that they are lineally descended from the Spanish warriors who accompanied Cortes, Pizarro, Gonsalvo de Ximines, and other chiefs in their conquest of Mexico, Peru, Columbia, Chili, &c. Bolivar is about forty-one years of age. I have been told that he looks considerably older, from the great fatigues and various privations he has undergone in his numerous campaigns in South America. In person Bolivar is small, but muscular, and well made, and able to go through astonishing fatigues, which I have heard confirmed by one of his aides-de-camp and Colonel Santa Maria, who, with others of Bolivar's staff, had frequently been left behind by their chief, in his long and tedious journeys over the mountains and vast plains of Columbia and Peru. The eyes of Bolivar are very

dark, large, full of fire and penetration, and denote energy of mind and greatness of soul; his nose is aquiline and well-formed, his face rather long and prematurely furrowed by care and anxiety; his complexion sallow. In society, Bolivar is lively in his manner, full of anecdote and conversation; he possesses the happy knack, like Buonaparte, of reading at once a man's character, and placing him in a situation where his talents and abilities will prove most useful to the country. One great and rare virtue belonging to the character of Bolivar is his thorough disinterestedness, and the little regard he pays to himself under the most severe privations, always anxious to share what he has with his companions in arms, even to his last shirt. To confirm this, it will not be amiss to relate an anecdote of him, told me by another of his aides-de-camp.

Soon after his entry into Bogotá after the defeat of the Spaniards at Bojaca, he gave a grand entertainment to many of the first families of the place; and just before dinner, an English colonel arrived. Bolivar looking at him, said "my good and brave

colonel, what a dirty shirt you have on for this grand dinner; how happens it?" The colonel replied, "he was really very sorry, but to confess the truth, it was the only shirt he had." On hearing which Bolivar laughed, and sending for his major-domo, desired him to give the colonel one of his shirts; the man hesitated, and remained looking at the general; when he again said rather impatiently, "why don't you go as I desire you, the dinner will soon be on the table." The major-domo stammered out "your excellency has but two shirts, one is on your back, the other in the wash." This made Bolivar and the colonel laugh heartily; the former remarking jokingly, "the Spaniards retreated so quickly from us my dear colonel, that I have been obliged to leave my heavy baggage in the rear."

It is a well known fact that Bolivar is at this time a poorer man than when first the civil war broke out. He had then some of the finest estates in the neighbourhood of Caraccas, cultivated by slaves, producing excellent cocoa, tobacco, indigo,

&c. He gave liberty to almost all his slaves, making only one condition, that they should not serve against the cause of independence. Most of the Negroes entered into the Columbian service, and proved excellent soldiers.

Bolivar's determined perseverance under the most disheartening circumstances; his skill, ability, and dexterity in amalgamating the different materials which now form the state of Columbia; his courage and coolness in action, and his prudence and foresight in seizing instantaneously all the advantages to be derived from victory, cannot be too much admired; and leave the great Bolivar supereminent over all others in the Temple of Fame. No man ever yet existed, how great soever the qualities of his mind, who had not some foibles to throw a certain degree of shade over the more brilliant parts of his character. Bolivar is rather hasty in his temper, and frequently on these occasions makes use of intemperate expressions, for which he is afterwards extremely sorry, and anxious to make atonement to the person whose feelings may have been wounded

in these unguarded moments. But revenge was never harboured in the bosom of this great man, and nothing short of the atrocities and cruelties committed by the Spaniards against his troops, could ever have induced Bolivar to have carried on against his enemies "une guerre à l'outrance." Bolivar is famed for his hospitality, and delights in seeing his friends happy around him. He is temperate in his diet, drinks a moderate quantity of wine, no spirits, seldom smokes, and is generally the last to retire to rest, and the first to rise. Dancing is one of his favourite amusements, which he performs gracefully; and on these occasions I am told the hero reaps a plentiful harvest of smiles from the American beauties. The Liberator, as he is called, is a man of gallantry, and has the credit of being very successful. Bolivar is a widower, without children; he was married at Madrid when young, to a daughter of the Marquis of Ulsturon. He speaks French and Italian well, having resided in those countries; also a little English, in which he has improved of late years, by having always had on his

personal staff one or two English officers and an English medical man.

Bolivar has escaped assassination on several occasions in quite a miraculous manner. During his residence at Kingston in Jamaica, he changed his lodging for one in a cooler situation, to which he intended to remove his bed the next day, but altering his plan, he remained there that night, leaving his hammock suspended in his former abode. This his secretary took possession of, and was stabbed to the heart in the night. The assassin was apprehended, and proved to be a young black, whom Bolivar had dismissed from his service. The wretch was hanged for the offence, but remained firm and obstinate in refusing to disclose the names of the persons who had instigated him to the commission of the crime; but it was generally supposed at the time that some of the Spanish agents were at the bottom of this nefarious act.

On another occasion, in one of his campaigns near St. Jose, a Columbian colonel deserted to the enemy, and offered the same night to conduct a party of Spa-

niards to Bolivar's tent, disguised as Creole troops, with the object of either shooting him or taking him prisoner. The offer was accepted by Murillo, and the detachment reached the head-quarters without difficulty. Colonel Lopez, the deserter, had the countersign for the night of the Columbian army, and he stated to one of the president's staff that he had something of importance to communicate to him respecting an intended movement of the enemy, which he had just obtained from a deserter. The officer replied, that he would immediately go to General Bolivar's tent and acquaint him with the circumstance: on which Colonel Lopez and his party rushed on, and when within a few yards of the tent, fired a volley through it, took to flight, and escaped under cover of the darkness of the night. Providentially Bolivar had quitted his tent two or three minutes previously, and was a few yards in the rear when the firing took place. This caused a general alarm and much confusion for the moment; the troops got under arms, supposing it was a night attack of the Spaniards: and on examina-

tion of Bolivar's cot, it was found that three or four holes had perforated it, so that he must have been inevitably killed or severely wounded had he been there.

Bolivar's last escape from assassination was at Lima in Peru, during the winter of 1824. A Peruvian colonel was found murdered in the street at night, and the manchette (or long knife) buried to the hilt in his body. The knife was brought to Bolivar the next day, who observed, on examining it closely, that it had been recently sharpened. On remarking this, he gave an order that all the cutlers should be brought to his quarters as quickly as possible. On being examined separately, one cutler stated that a black had been to his shop the preceding day to get two long knives sharpened, and that he should certainly know the man if he saw him again. General Bolivar then directed small military patroles to parade the streets, and take up all the blacks as recruits for some of the corps, and when these were shown to the cutler, he soon recognised the negro who had been at his shop to have

the knives sharpened. The black acknowledged that he had stabbed the colonel, and that the other knife had been sharpened for General Bolivar's major-domo to assassinate his master, and that it would be found concealed in the sleeve of the steward's coat. This proved to be the case, but the major-domo's resolution had failed him when about to commit the horrid act. This was the story as related at Bogotá, and it was added that the parties had been instigated to this diabolical treachery by some of the royalists.

I trust that Bolivar's risks and dangers are now nearly over: the Spaniards no longer possess an inch of ground in all South America, excepting Callao, which has been nobly defended by their general, Rodit; but want of provisions must oblige this place to surrender at last. The Spaniards had not a single man-of-war in the Pacific, and were under great apprehensions at this time of an attack on the islands of Cuba and Porto-Rico, from the combined forces of Mexico and Columbia. About this time Bolivar proved to the world his disinter-

estedness by refusing a gift of two millions of dollars, which had been voted him by the general congress of Peru, in return for the services he had rendered to the country of the Incas.

The ladies of Bogotá are adorned with emeralds of a peculiarly fine green, and without flaws, which is rare in these stones, and makes them very valuable. These emeralds are all from the mines of Moussa, where some of the largest in the world have been found, and are now in the possession of the king of Spain. He has one of so large a size that his majesty uses it as a paper-presser. I was told that the curé of Moussa had a waistcoat with small emerald buttons, the greater part of which had been found in the crops of fowls and turkeys, picked up by them in their rambles to digest their food.

I was sorry that I had not time to visit the famous Virgin which is to be seen in the church of Chiquinquira, a town distant about two days' ride from Bogotá. Mr. Henderson, the consul-general, had been there, and told me that the painting of

the Virgin was a mere daub, ornamented with emeralds (some large; one said to be worth 5000 dollars), pearls, and other precious stones. A ridiculous story is told, that the picture of the Virgin was once torn into several pieces by some accident, and that all the parts by a miracle were immediately joined together: be this as it may, the fame of this Virgin has spread far and near, and pilgrims come from the most remote provinces, even from Peru, to offer up their praises and their money (the former will be of no use without the latter) at the shrine of the Virgin, for recovery from illness or escape from some great danger. When the pilgrims see the towers of the church of Chiquinquira at a distance, they fall on their knees, commence prayers, crossing themselves, and beating their breasts; and this ceremony is repeated at every quarter of a league until they arrive in the town. The number of persons who perform this pilgrimage in the course of the year is great; and we heard that in the month of September 1824, which is the time of the year when most of the devotees arrive,

25,000 dollars had been collected by the friars of the order of St. Domingo from these foolish superstitious people. The good Virgin has hitherto proved an inexhaustible mine of wealth to the friars; how long she may continue so is I think uncertain. I was told that the Virgin was carried off to Bogotá, either by the Spaniards or Columbians, during the war, and, what is hardly credible, they say was not plundered of a single precious stone.

The friars of the order of St. Domingo have expended a very large sum of money in the building of their church, which is not yet quite finished. Mr. Henderson was much pleased with the reception he met with from these monks, for which he was in some measure indebted to our friend Pepé Paris, who is on the most intimate terms with the head of the order. I afterwards met this friar at dinner at Mr. Henderson's house; he was a remarkably handsome well made man, above six feet in height, and not more than forty-five years of age. He appeared to enjoy English cookery, and had no aversion to a glass or two of old Madeira. I heard from a gentleman

who was of the party that this friar had for his mistress one of the handsomest girls in Chiquinquira, on whom he lavished a great deal of money; among a variety of presents he gave her a pair of buckles set with small diamonds, valued at 5000 dollars. Mr. Henderson had seen him at a bull-feast in the dress of the province, viz. a handsome roana of a variety of colours, large straw-hat, with jack-boots and massive silver spurs, mounted on an excellent horse: he said he had hardly ever seen a man ride more gracefully, or manage his horse better. Nature certainly never intended this man for a friar.

The province of New Grenada lies between 5° and 12° north latitude and 63° and 80° west longitude. According to Baron de Humboldt's measurement, Bogotá is 8694 feet above the level of the sea, and not more than 4° north latitude from the Equator. Tradition says that the plain of Bogotá was once an immense lake: there is reason to believe this might have been the case, as it is surrounded on all sides by mountains, and the river

Bogotá is obliged to force itself a passage down an abrupt precipice called the Fall of Tequendama. The population of the capital is calculated at 40,000 souls. This might be considered a moderate computation, judging from the ground the city occupies, but on examination you find the greater proportion of its site covered with large convents, and considerable gardens attached to their numerous churches; the houses being also but of one story, contain few inhabitants in proportion to the space of ground occupied. At this time the population of the capital is increasing fast, and a great many foreigners are flocking to the seat of government. This has made house-rent double and treble the price it was three or four years ago, and increased the value of this property. The Bogotians now begin to feel the advantages derived from admitting strangers into Columbia; all landed property in the vicinity of Bogotá will in a few years become highly valuable. The two small mountain-streams of San Francisco and San Augustine run through the town, and enter the Funno, or Bogotá river, a league

or two from the town. The income of the Bishop of Bogotá was 70,000 dollars per annum; derived from tithes, free-gifts, fines, &c. The last bishop lived like a temporal prince, giving his major-domo every morning 100 dollars for his daily expenses: he was the brother of a Spanish marquis. The income of the canons of the cathedral was from 300 to 400 dollars. Besides the magnificent cathedral there are three churches, eight convents, four nunneries, and a public hospital. The university was founded in 1610, since which period the two colleges before mentioned have been endowed with large revenues, for the purpose of public education. A library was established about fifty years ago, but most of the books, particularly the valuable works of the celebrated botanist, Metis, were sent to Spain during the civil war. There is a mint at Bogotá, and several courts of justice.

The plain is tolerably well cultivated, and the inhabitants get two harvests in the year; sowing in the months of February, March, and September. I have seen excellent crops of wheat, barley, lu-

cerne, and Dutch clover, the latter growing most luxuriantly: the cultivation of lucerne particularly is much assisted by their system of irrigation, and proves a profitable article to the owner, being sold as food for the horses in the town. The ploughs and other agricultural instruments are of a rough construction, and might be much improved, which will probably soon be the case, as a colonel, formerly in our service, has arrived from England with ploughs and harrows; an English ploughman and blacksmith accompanied the implements, and the colonel has purchased a farm within two or three miles of Bogotá. It was also his intention to supply the market with fat meat, good butter, and other household comforts scarcely known before in the capital of New Grenada.

The hot climate of the coast proves fatal to a great many of the natives of the high lands of Columbia, and the population of the republic has much decreased during the late war, by both parties sending their recruits to Carthagena, Santa Martha, Maracaibo, Porto Cabello, and other towns near

the sea. The climate of the upper provinces agrees better with the negroes and Mestigoes who come from the coast.

On Mr. Riviero's return from Moussa, he brought with him two condours, one of which died from the fatigue of his journey, soon after his arrival at Bogotá, the other I saw alive. The condour is of the vulture tribe: a large and powerful bird. The head is bare, and round the neck is a collar, about two inches wide, of soft white down, like that of the swan; the plumage of the body, brown intermixed with white feathers; the legs and talons of great strength and size, the former being the thickness of a man's wrist. This bird stands nearly five feet high: the eye is a dark brown, without the fierceness of the eagle or the vulture. It is very destructive among sheep and goats, &c. and has been known to carry away a small calf. It is shy, and difficult to approach. These two had been taken with the lasso, after having gorged themselves with the flesh of a dead ox. The first time I saw the bird he had been just fed, and appeared heavy and

stupid. Mr. Riviero gave me the tail of a rattle-snake; it contained ten joints or rattles, which denoted its being ten years old, as every year adds a rattle: they sound like parched peas in a box. This rattle-snake had been killed in rather a curious manner:—a man having observed the snake watching him, threw his hat near it, and while the snake fixed his eyes on the hat, with a long forked pole he pinned the rattle-snake to the ground by its neck, and killed it.

Colonel Riviero is a remarkably intelligent man, and a great sportsman; he has for some time resided on his estate, situate on the bank of the river Magdalena. He gave me an account of the way in which he attacked the wild boars, when in herds of one or two hundred. The first object of huntsmen is to separate one of them from the main body by the aid of their dogs, and then to attack it with the boar-spear. If the boar has his head erect, you may attack him without much danger, but if down, it behoves the hunter to be on his guard, as he is preparing to make his rush, in doing which such

is his fury, that he often upsets men and dogs, wounding them severely with his sharp tusks. The boar-hunters ascertain from the appearance of their track, whether the animals are distant or not. Dantas (or wild asses) are found in these forests, but are so shy, and their sense of smelling so acute, that few of them are killed.

The latter end of August Colonel Paris, brother to Señor Pepé Paris, and commandant of the town, dined with me. He was held in much estimation by the Vice-President, and considered a very brave officer. He had served several campaigns against the Spaniards, commanding a corps of infantry. He told me that in one action against the Pastucians in the province of Pasta, he lost 210 men out of 300, and had fourteen officers killed and wounded. In different actions the colonel had been wounded three times, and had two of his fingers shot off his right hand. He related that three of his soldiers had once defended a small narrow pass for a considerable time, to allow the main body of the corps to retire, and that when they found the enemy

pressing on them, and that they must inevitably be made prisoners, they embraced each other, jumped over a precipice, and were dashed to pieces. What a glorious example of devotion to their country! fully equal to those recorded in the best times of Greece and Rome. Colonel Paris was taken prisoner by the Spaniards, when Colonel Calgada, who commanded them, decided that every other prisoner should be shot. In drawing lots, Colonel Paris had the good fortune to escape. A young officer, Antonio Ricaute (a relation of his), commanded a small fort in the province of Venezuela, in which was a depôt of gunpowder. The Spaniards having surrounded the fort, which was destitute of provisions, he desired his small garrison to sally out in the night, and endeavour to escape. On the morning he hoisted a flag, as a signal to his enemies that he was willing to surrender the fort. Having previously prepared a train that communicated with the magazine, he allowed some Spanish troops and officers to enter the fort, when he set fire to the train, and blew up himself and the Spaniards.

The code of laws for the Republic of Columbia was ratified by the general congress in 1821. These laws are better adapted for the free government of Columbia, under its present new form, than the Spanish system of jurisprudence, which prevailed while these colonies were subject to the Mother Country, whose great object was to divide and weaken; and by their artful policy seventeen millions of people, including those of all colours, were kept in an abject state of submission—victims to the rapacious extortions of those sent from Old Spain to America, for the purpose of retrieving their ruined fortunes. During the time the Prince of Peace (Godoy) governed Spain, it was notorious to all the world that every situation under government had its price; and it was never considered whether the individual was qualified or fit for the station he wished to obtain, provided that his purse was long enough to furnish the stipulated sum. Ignorance and superstition were the great supporters of the former government, but let us hope that the reign of these evils is hastening to its termination,

and that the sunshine of learning and toleration will beam on these fertile plains. The people certainly merit a good government, from having boldly risked their lives and property to obtain this blessing. It will probably take some time before the country is exactly suited to the present constitution. It is not easy to eradicate immediately from the minds of the people their former prejudices and bad habits, which had been encouraged and fostered by the cunning and artifice for which the Spanish priesthood have always been notorious; experience shewing that these prejudices habituate the minds of the people to contribute largely to the temporal comforts of the monks and priests.

The territory of the republic has been divided into different departments, and the duties of the several officers of the government clearly defined. Proper courts of justice have been established, and in process of time the civil and criminal jurisprudence will improve, and Spanish corruption be for ever banished from these courts. This is an Herculeian undertaking, and can only be accomplished

gradually. The delay and expense attending the suits are subjects of complaint in the New as well as in the Old World; indeed the lawyers fatten on the litigation of mankind in most parts of the globe.

It is a principal object with the present government to improve, as much as circumstances will admit, all classes, whether Indian or negro; the former no longer pays the capitation-tax, as under the Spaniards, and the latter, when slaves, are well treated by their masters. By a decree of the congress in 1819, all are born free from that time, and under so just and efficient regulations, that it might be wise in other governments to adopt the plan. It would be well were Columbia to imitate as closely as possible the government of the United States in the expenditure of its public revenues, and to reduce without delay so much of the war establishment as is consistent with the safety of the country, and instead of fitting out expeditions against the island of Cuba, endeavour by economy to remit to Europe the necessary sums for paying the future dividends of the loans raised in England. John Bull has hitherto been a sincere

friend and well-wisher to Columbia, but these sentiments will be changed, if he finds he has been assisting a country whose government in money transactions turns out to be on a par with that of the Beloved Ferdinand. The facility with which the new American government obtained money from England has caused extravagance; but the South Americans will now find the golden dream over, and that their precious metals must resume their old course across the Atlantic, in order to support the character of the new government. Such a minister as the Duc de Sully is much wanted at this time in Columbia, where integrity and great application to business should be the leading features of their minister of finance.

The exertions made by His Excellency the Vice-President, Santander, and the minister of the interior, Señor Manuel Rastrepo, to carry into effect the decrees of the general congress for the education of all classes of people throughout this extensive republic are highly praiseworthy. I was much surprised to find, in my travels to the south and

westward, a school on the Lancasterian system in every village, however small, and some of them very well regulated. There is certainly no want of intellect among the various-coloured inhabitants of Columbia, and I saw in several places drawings in water-colours, small maps, and ingenious toys, which fully proved the soil was fertile, and only wanted to be cleared of the brambles and briers to insure a good crop. The government has wisely applied the property of the minor convents to the purposes of public education, and all the regular monastic institutions which had not eight members of the orders residing in the convents have been abolished, and the property, whether moveable or in fixed rents, applied to the endowment and support of colleges and schools in the different provinces. The former were much wanted; sons of gentlemen residing in the provinces of Choco or Cauca, were obliged to cross a branch of the Andes, and travel a great distance, to be educated at the two colleges of Bogotá. The bishops and vicars were called upon by the executive government to assist in the

formation of the new schools, and the zeal and alacrity with which many of the clergy obeyed these orders, redound much to their credit.

The congress have also attended to the education of the female children, and schools have been formed in the different convents of nuns. This system I cannot approve, as the nuns of America are generally themselves very ignorant, excepting in the arts of embroidery for the saints and churches, of making artificial flowers, and sometimes sweetmeats. From the powerful influence of women over our society, too much care cannot be bestowed on their education. To attain this grand and useful object, public schools for females should be established in the large towns of the republic, and the school-mistress and her assistants be paid out of the revenues derived by the government from the confiscated ecclesiastical property. When females are educated in nunneries, the friars and priests acquire too great an influence over their minds, and when these women enter the world, this influence is extended over their husbands and connexions. Let

the general congress and executive government turn their eyes to the present wretched state of Spain; let them analyze the cause of her wretchedness, and they will easily perceive that most of the evils brought on this fine and unfortunate country, originate in the power and influence which the priesthood exercise over the mass of the people, and from the enormous incomes which the archbishops, bishops, monasteries, and clergy drain from the pockets of the people.

The articles of exportation from Columbia consist of cocoa, coffee, sugar, tobacco, cotton, hides, dye-wood, sarsaparilla, jesuits' bark, balsams, indigo, furs, &c. The late long and desolating war has considerably diminished the export-trade of some of the provinces, particularly that of Venezuela, where many of the finest estates have been nearly ruined from want of cultivation; the slaves taking advantage of the unsettled state of the country to run away from their masters, and the few that remained being forced to carry arms either for the Patriots or Spaniards. During a civil war it is

almost impossible for men of property to steer a neutral course. They are considered either as friends or foes by the contending parties, and their estates are sure to suffer whenever the province becomes the theatre of war, and frequently their friends prove more injurious than their foes.

The congress and government of Columbia should try every means to induce foreigners to settle in the country, and increase the population. The labouring part of which must be considered the truest wealth of a nation, as immense uncultivated and almost uninhabited districts, yield but a small revenue to government. No country ever required a longer peace than Columbia. She has certainly made noble and extraordinary efforts to secure her independence, but in doing this she has nearly exhausted herself, and peace alone can add to her people, and retrieve her finances. As a well-wisher to Columbia, I shall be sincerely glad when the sword shall return to its scabbard. The priests are still on the alert, and dread the declension of all their ridiculous mummeries, should emigrants flock in

numbers to the republic; and on some occasions they have instigated the lower classes to become jealous of all strangers.

A short time before I arrived at the village of Fucutativa, the priest had been most violent in his invectives from the pulpit against foreigners, calling them Jews and heretics, and exhorting his parishioners not to receive them into their houses, which they would contaminate. When the executive government was made acquainted with the intolerant conduct of this priest, they very properly ordered him to be prosecuted in the ecclesiastical court, and I understood he was removed from the parish, and heavily fined. The generality of the people have clear heads and quick perceptions, and under a wholesome and just government they will become useful citizens.

The general congress of Columbia has enacted some good regulations in trade, and the duty on foreign articles has been considerably lowered, but much remains yet to be done at the different seaports, to get rid of the corruption, delay, and vex-

ations still experienced by foreign merchants at the custom-houses. By the late treaty of commerce concluded between Great Britain and Columbia, the trade of the two countries is placed on a mutual reciprocity. The imports to Columbia from Europe are many, and of various kinds: the principal are dry goods, Manchester and Glasgow cottons, French silks and wines, woollen stuffs, German linen, all kinds of earthenware, and most articles coming under the denomination of ornaments and luxuries.

The manufactures of Columbia are at present few, and those are mostly carried on at Quito and in the south of the Republic: they consist of carpets, coarse cotton cloths, striped roanas *, &c. His Excellency the Vice-President had the kindness to send me a cotton night-cap and pair of gloves, made at Quito, which were soft and fine in their

* A roana is a large square cloak, with a hole in the middle, through which the head is put; it covers the arms and legs comfortably on horseback.

texture. The natives of Quito, most of whom are Indians, are considered a very industrious and ingenious people. I was surprised to see at Bogotá excellent thick carpets with fine colours, manufactured by them; but the carriage of a carpet from Quito to Bogotá, costs several hundred dollars, and therefore only those of large fortunes can afford to buy them. The finest cotton roanas are made in the province of Pasta, but this province has suffered so much in its population, by the determined resistance of its inhabitants to the Independent cause, that comparatively few roanas are now manufactured there.

In the month of August, Mr. Elbers gave a public breakfast to the Vice-President and all his friends, at the villa of the President Bolivar, which is situated about a mile out of Bogotá, on a gentle elevation on the side of the mountains, in the rear of the town, and commanding a fine view of the capital, and of the extensive plains, large lakes and mountains, which compose the grandeur of their neighbouring scenery. The flower-garden was laid out

with much taste, also a shrubbery on a small scale. Near the house was a Belvéder, from the top of which the view was grand in the extreme. In the lower part of this building was a commodious cold bath. In this snug retreat the great Bolivar used to enjoy himself, surrounded by his intimate friends, and often declared he preferred this " maison de plaisance " to the finest palace. This pretty Quinta had been presented to him for his services, and, for a wonder, he accepted it. The President often gave little dances here to some of the Bogotian beauties.

The déjeuné of Mr. Elbers was superb, and the champagne, the corks of which were flying about in all directions, had the effect of making some of the company rather merry and obstreperous. I afterwards heard that champagne to the amount of 300 dollars had been drunk by the party, probably assisted by the attendants. Dancing commenced at seven in the evening, and was kept up with spirit till a late hour: every one returned home highly delighted with the amusements of the day, which was certainly as pleasant as any which I spent in

Columbia. Mr. Elbers is a great favourite with some of the members of the executive government, and has been so fortunate as to get some very advantageous contracts from the government; amongst others, as I before stated, the exclusive privilege of navigating the river Magdalena with steam-boats for twenty years. This gentleman has since married a Columbian lady of good family. At the déjeûné a German servant of Mr. Cadiz was wounded in the breast by Captain Clementi, a nephew of Bolivar's, who told me afterwards the man had been insolent to him. Fortunately the servant jumped on one side when the thrust was made at him, or he would most likely have been run through the body. In justice to Captain Clementi, I must say he had the character of being a very quiet man; but the lively juice of the grape, particularly of those of the plains of Champagne, is a sad promoter of mischief, and often transforms a good-natured man into a quarrelsome one.

Amongst the amusements at Bogotá, particularly on a Sunday afternoon, cock-fighting at the cock-pit

is very fashionable with all classes of the inhabitants, and large bets are made on the cocks. An Englishman is surprised, on visiting a gentleman, to see sometimes one or two dozen English game cocks in the court-yard, all fastened by the leg with a string: they have clean water by them, and are regularly fed at certain hours in the day with maize or Indian corn. The ridiculous Spanish custom prevails still in Columbia, of offering a visitor any thing he may admire in the house; as the Columbians have assumed a new character, they should leave off these unmeaning compliments, and offer that only which they wish should be accepted. Mr. Cade and myself were much amused one morning at receiving a printed card from the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with the following notice: "La Señora de —— tiene el honor de ofrecer a la disposicion devm. una niña que ha dado a luz." "Senora de —— has the honor of offering for your disposal, a little girl which she has brought into the world." Having half a dozen children of my own

in England, I declined the polite offer of receiving the new-born babe.

On the 13th of September I had made all my arrangements for a long and tedious journey, to visit some of the southern provinces of the state of Columbia, in order to ascertain from personal observation the actual condition of this part of the Republic. I had heard that the valley of Cauca, which is almost encircled by the different branches of the Corderillas of the Andes, and which borders on the Pacific, was the finest country of the Republic. The travelling party consisted of Mr. Cade, my secretary, Edle the cook, and two servants, one English, the other a German, who had both been for three or four years in the service of non-commissioned officers, and spoke Spanish well. The Englishman was a remarkably active man, thoroughly acquainted with the character of the natives, and on various occasions in our travels proved very useful. I had three mules of my own, and several to carry our baggage. We were obliged to take a

month's provisions of biscuits, dried salt beef cut in long slices, chocolate, &c. I was told we might be able to purchase poultry and eggs until we arrived within seven or eight days of the Paramo of Guanaco (the summit of the Andes), which travellers cross over in their journey to Popayan. The Honorable Pedro Gual kindly gave me a letter addressed generally to the magistrates of the towns and villages through which I was to pass, to assist me in any way I might require; and I afterwards learnt that the governors of the provinces had received letters from the Government, desiring them to show me every attention in their power, which I experienced on all occasions.

September the 14th, at three in the afternoon, we left Bogotá, accompanied by some of my friends for a short distance, and by Señor Pepé Paris, who went with us as far as the village of Bogotá, formerly the residence of an Indian cacique. We slept here, placing our beds on large tables, to avoid as much as possible being tormented by fleas and other vermin. By some mistake the bed of Colonel Narvaes,

who was to sleep this night at Quatro Squinas, about a league off, was brought to our house, and taken possession of by my friend Pepé Paris, who had retired early to rest. Colonel Narvaes discovering the mistake, sent a servant and a mule to fetch it in the night. Walter (our German), finding the bed occupied by Señor Pepé Paris, delivered to him the message just received, who, scarcely awake, and hearing something about the colonel and the bed, concluded the speaker was Colonel Narvaes, coming to claim his property, and he stammered out in French to the astonished Walter "Je vous demande mille pardons, Monsieur. Je ne savais pas que l'etoit votre lit." Mr. Cade and myself, who were sitting in the room, could not help laughing at this ridiculous scene between Pepé Paris and the old German huzzar.

We left the Indian village of Bogotá early in the morning, and steered our course ssw. The country for some miles was divided into small valleys by gentle ranges of hills without any trees. The valleys were all pasture, and covered with horses and cattle.

We breakfasted at a very tolerable posado (or small inn), called the Bocca del Monte (or Gorge of the Mountains), as immediately after leaving this place, the traveller begins to descend from the plain of Bogotá, by a very abrupt rocky road, into the warm country. Here the edges of immense forests adorn the mountains, and after desending for two or three hours, during part of which we were obliged to go on foot, I once more heard the howling of our old acquaintances, the red monkeys, saw hanging nests of the oropendulums, and the tropical birds and butterflies flying around us. The prospect in descending from the plateau was really sublime. The tops of the chain mountains to the eastward, which form one side of the plain of Bogotá, in the direction of the waterfall of Tequendama, were buried in the clouds. Before us appeared in the distance a few scattered cottages; and the small town of La Mesa * in the midst of them; in the back-ground, in the intermediate distance, were large tracts of forests, smoking

* La Mesa (or Table), so called from its situation on a small flat plain.

and burning, having been set on fire for the purpose of clearing the ground for cultivation. Under our feet, the irregular and bold features of the country projected here and there, whitened by precipitous torrents. It was altogether a landscape worthy of the pencil of Salvator Rosa. On passing through a gloomy forest, we were shewn by our guide, on the left of the road, a large cave, where a celebrated hermit had lived for some years; we were informed that this holy man was famed for the wonderful cures he performed on sick people; and having few wants, living on fruits, roots, and water, he never took a fee for his advice.

We arrived at La Mesa about four in the afternoon, and I found myself greatly fatigued, having been attacked by dysentery when I left the capital, and the distance from the village of Bogotá to La Mesa is eight Spanish leagues (thirty-two miles). Travellers are always much annoyed for two or three days after leaving Bogotá, from so suddenly entering a hot climate after the cool temperature of its higher plains. We passed through the pretty vil-

lage of Tenja on our road to La Mesa, where General Briceño Mendez, then minister-at-war, and his brother, the colonel of the hussars of the body-guard, had a country-house and large estates in the neighbourhood. The fires we saw in the forests were on this estate, which they were clearing for the cultivation of Indian corn. The crops are excellent for some years after the land has been cleared by fire. The roots of the largest trees are gradually removed, though some are allowed to remain, and in the open space between them the ground produces plantain, coffee, and maize abundantly. We met on our road a great many mules laden with the fruits and vegetables of a tropical climate, going to the market of the capital; and I was told that the Indians and lower classes who live five or six days' journey from Bogotá carry the produce of their small farms there. When we arrived at La Mesa in the afternoon, the thermometer was 80°, a difference of about 12° between this place and the village of Bogotá.

Upon our arrival, we met His Excellency the

Vice-President, who was setting off for the country-house of the minister-at-war, having spent the preceding day at the house of Colonel Olaya, of the militia in La Mesa, where I was to take up my quarters for the night. Colonel Wilthew, a young Englishman, aide-de-camp to the Vice-President, requested permission of His Excellency to accompany us as far as the town of Tocayman, to which he kindly assented. Colonel Olaya provided good fare for us, but I was so unwell, and suffered so much from thirst, that I could not do justice to the dinner, which seemed a great annoyance to the colonel, who was a very hospitable man. He told me that when the Spaniards last occupied the country, he had been obliged to remain for three years concealed in the adjacent mountains, frequently changing his resting-place, for the Spaniards often sent light troops to scour the mountains for fugitives, and he had frequently been almost starved to death. His eldest son, a fine young man, only twenty-one years of age, was taken prisoner, and shot in the Square of La Mesa, a few yards in front of his house, and the

cocoa, sugar, and coffee plantations on his estates were all destroyed. The colonel concluded this conversation by saying, " I do not regret all these sacrifices, since the Columbians have at length succeeded in freeing themselves from the cursed yoke of the Spaniards." The colonel had then an estate to sell on the banks of the river Bogotá, for which he wanted 20,000 dollars, including all the slaves.

The market of this place is very considerable, as the people come from Tocayman, La Purificacioñ, and even from Neyva, the capital of that province, distant full ten days' journey. The people of the province of Neyva exchange their commodities, such as gold-dust, dried fish from the Magdalena, fruits of all sorts, tiger-skins, and other furs, for wheat grown on the plain of Bogotá. In this canton, the colonel told me he could muster 2000 militia, all armed with firelocks and pikes.

We took leave of our kind landlord early on Thursday the 16th of September, and in three hours arrived at the small village of Arapoyma, where we went to the priest's house; Colonel Wilthew having a slight

acquaintance with him. This good old curé received us in the kindest manner, and soon prepared a substantial breakfast. We were all much struck with the beauty of a little girl about eight or nine years old, the daughter of the housekeeper, who was also a pretty brunette. The curé was uncommonly facetious and good-humoured, and was not offended when we joked with him about the great likeness between the little girl and himself; which, by the by, was paying him a compliment, although he was a good-looking man, with large blue eyes, which you seldom see in these provinces. His amiable character had acquired for him the respect and esteem of the parish and neighbourhood. He was a native of the plains of Apuré, and having on all occasions displayed great zeal for the Independent cause, government had given him the living of Arapoyma. The rest of our journey this day was over a very mountainous rugged country, great part of which was covered with wood. The heat increased greatly as we descended and approached the small town of Tocayman. On the road we met several families

returning to Bogotá, who had been to Tocayman to bathe in the mineral waters for the benefit of their health.

About a league and a half before we arrived at Tocayman, we found ourselves on the banks of the river Bogotá, in a deliciously cool spot, compared with the heat of the road, where a rancha or Indian cottage was built, overhung with royal palm and other evergreen forest trees. The place was crowded with mules and muleteers going to and returning from the capital; some of these were employed in washing their mules and bathing, some were sleeping on the ground, or in their hammocks slung between two trees, others taking their frugal repast under the umbrage of the thick verdant foliage of their noble branches. The appearance of these different groups of men, with a few women among them, when viewed from a rising-ground at a small distance, was very picturesque, and the scene would have formed a most pleasing subject for drawing. Here we met with an Irish soldier, who was returning to Bogotá with the baggage of his

master, a colonel in the Columbian service, who was his countryman: the colonel was to follow the next day, having re-established his health at Tocayman.

We reached that place at four in the afternoon. I found myself so weak and ill from an attack of dysentery, that I began to have serious apprehensions of not being able to proceed on my journey. Robust health is absolutely necessary for persons who undertake to travel over the thinly inhabited plains and mountains of this country, where medical advice and medicines can seldom be procured; and I am convinced nearly one-half of the population die from want of proper attendance. However, I was determined to rest for a couple of days at Tocayman, in the hope of getting better, and being able to prosecute my journey.

The alcalde of Tocayman had lodged our party at the house of an old priest, who was of a very opposite character to our kind and hospitable curé of Arapoyma, being a determined miser, whose sole delight consisted in hoarding bags of doubloons and Spanish dollars: to watch this treasure, the old miser

used to sit up the greater part of the night in his room, and never rise from his bed till eleven or twelve o'clock at noon. I well recollect seeing the old wretch sitting in a studied attitude at a table, with a large old-fashioned Latin Bible before him, which he was pretending to read as we entered his house, although I have little doubt but his thoughts were wandering to his useless and beloved treasures. The features of his countenance denoted the sordidness of his mind, and his meagre body evidently shewed that his avarice denied it sufficient sustenance. This skin-flint of a priest never offered us even a glass of water during the time we resided under his roof. This was of little consequence to us, as I had provided every thing necessary for our journey, and we were able to purchase fish and poultry in the village. Dr. Cheyne, who has established himself at Bogotá, and become a great favourite with many of the first families in the place, had the kindness to give me some medicine, with proper directions for taking it, in case any of the party should be attacked on the road by intermit-

tent fevers or dysentery, and we likewise found unexpectedly a small quantity of Emden grits, which he had likewise taken the precaution of adding. Colonel Wilthew recommended my taking nothing but thick gruel made of the grits during the two days we rested at Tocayman, which advice I followed, and found myself wonderfully recovered, and able to proceed on my travels.

The first evening of my arrival, the commandant of the place called on me, and expressed a wish to procure me any thing which the town might afford; and among other subjects of conversation, he stated that the skeleton of a very large animal had been discovered near Tocayman, and on his shewing me some of the bones the next day, I perceived they were those of the antediluvian animal called the mammoth: the colonel gave me part of one of the thigh-bones, which he kept for me until my return to Tocayman; I afterwards brought it to England.

Our old curmudgeon of a landlord had his solitary meals in his room, which consisted only of a little chocolate, an egg, and dry toast; probably his des-

sert was looking over his doubloons and dollars. Mr. Cade gave him a quotation from the Bible, which he did not seem to relish, and expressed surprise at heretics knowing,—" Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal." To say the truth, Colonel Wilthew and my young secretary badgered the old priest a good deal; but they got nothing from him but a glass of water and a fire in the kitchen for cooking our victuals.

Tocayman is a sort of watering-place, and was at this time full of visitors and invalids from Bogotá. The mineral-water contains vitriol, iron, and sulphur. Persons afflicted with rheumatism, scurvy, or the venereal disease, which is very prevalent at Bogotá, come here to bathe in the mineral-waters, and, as the natives term it, " to sweat off the diseases." These disorders are considered by the faculty difficult to cure at Bogotá, owing to the rarefied state of the atmosphere, which closes the pores, and prevents perspiration. Many of the

wealthy Bogotians go every year for a couple of months either to Guadias, La Mesa, or Tocayman, merely for change of air, and to get rid of their diseases by perspiration. The population of Tocayman is computed at 1000 souls; there are two small churches and a public school recently established on the Lancasterian system.

Early in the morning, Colonel Wilthew and Mr. Cade bathed in the river Bogotá, which is about a mile and a quarter from the town. Being an invalid I was unable to indulge in this luxury. All the water is brought to Tocayman from the river in large patakas (or jars), on the backs of donkeys or by women. There are a few alligators in this part of the river Bogotá, but not so large as those of the Magdalena. We found the thermometer in the middle of the day in the shade 85°. Tocayman lies in 4° 16″ north latitude, and 74° 59″ west longitude. Mules coming from the cool plains of Bogotá to this hot climate, are frequently attacked with a complaint called Solian, brought on by the great heat while travelling. To cure this disorder the

muleteers bleed the mules, and pour a small quantity of aquadiente (or spirits) into their ears, and then tie them up.

On Sunday, 19th, at six A.M. we quitted Tocayman, accompanied by the commandant, Colonel Wilthew, and several Columbian officers who were residing there for the re-establishment of their health, leaving our old host in bed. In passing by the gaol, I was surprised to see it full of young men; and on my remarking to the commandant that I supposed there were many robberies in the neighbourhood, he replied "Oh no, the people were honest and quiet; that these prisoners were only young *volunteers*, from the province of Neyva, going to join a newly raised regiment at Bogotá, and that these volunteers were confined for the night, to prevent their running away." This explanation amused us exceedingly. On our arrival at the river Bogotá, we all crossed it in a piraqua, and the river was so low, from long drought, that the mules with our baggage on their backs waded across. Here I took leave of Colonel Wilthew, the commandant,

and other Columbian officers, and proceeded with our guide, who was on foot. We travelled all day over a large savannah, interspersed with a few low hills, and found the heat exceedingly great. On the road we met with some more volunteers with their hands tied together, so that I suspect those who serve in the Columbian armies are only volunteers by name. Near the road-side we observed several small wooden crosses at the heads of graves, and very large stones placed on the top of the earth, to prevent the tigers, which are numerous in this province, from devouring the bodies. As there are no chapels near the habitations of the people, they are obliged to bury their relations near their cottages, and they fix on a spot by the road-side, that every traveller may say a short prayer for the salvation of their souls. In this country we saw for the first time rabbit-burrows and rabbits: they were nearly the same colour as those we have in Europe, but not quite so large. As we approached the river Magdalena, we saw a great many wild turkeys, peacocks, macaws, paroquets, &c.: I was still so

weak that I was not able to go after them with my gun. The plumage of some of the birds was also new to me, and the colours very beautiful, particularly of one about the size of a lark, which was jet black on the breast, with a bright scarlet head, back and tail. We stopped at a very neat cottage made of large bamboos; the sides were open to allow the air to circulate through it, and the covering made of dried plantain leaves: a small cooking-house being always detached from the dwelling part. Here we halted for three or four hours, during the hotter part of the day. A swinging cot or cradle, in which an infant was sleeping, was very ingeniously made of slender, pliant bamboos, in the shape of a car attached to a balloon; at each end of the cot, at equal distances, were fixed four small cords which met at one point, and were hung to a beam of the cottage, so that the least touch made it swing, and with the protection of a blue and white mosquito curtain, the child slept as comfortably as possible.

All the people of this province complained this

year (1824) of the unusual heat. September is generally one of the hottest months in the low plains of New Grenada. The crops of maize, plantain, cocoa, &c. had been much injured from not having had the customary quantity of rain, during the months of February, March and April; and the subsequent great heats had nearly destroyed their crops. On my return through this country in January, I found the inhabitants almost starving, and obliged to procure provisions at a great expense from the villages in the plain of Bogotá and other distant provinces. Near this road I saw for the first time some very large inland shells, which I have heard are very much valued by conchologists, and also some dwarf shrubs, bearing bright scarlet flowers.

At half-past six in the evening we arrived on the banks of the river Magdalena, at the Paso de Flanders (a ferry of Flanders), and found the house crowded with muleteers on their way to La Mesa: the mules laden with cargoes of cocoa from the town of Neyva, the capital of the province. We were all very tired, and not very nice as to our quar-

ters for the night; but the behaviour of these fellows in smoking and spitting, and the smell of garlic and other such odoriferous perfumes, fairly drove us out of the house, and obliged us to take refuge in a small out-house. The heat of this place compelled us to have the door open at night. We were not aware it was used as a granary for Indian corn by the farmer. However, one branch of his family, the pigs, were perfectly well acquainted with this circumstance, and tormented us all night by their persevering efforts to get at the maize. In hot climates the pigs feed chiefly at night, and during the day sleep and wallow in the mud. This farmer must have been rather a wealthy man, to judge from the number of pigs he kept fatting on plantains, in strong enclosures of bamboo. The muleteers told us, that about a fortnight ago, a woman from a neighbouring cottage near the banks of the Magdalena, had been carried off by an alligator.

On the 20th we were all up at four A.M., having rather a tedious business to perform in getting our

mules and baggage over the river Magdalena. This operation occupied us nearly three hours: the muleteers set no value upon time, and I verily believe, are proof against every kind of persuasion to hurry themselves. I recommend all impatient men to travel for six months in Columbia, if they wish to acquire patience, although the trial might prove fatal to some, as nothing is more conducive to health in tropical climates than a mild, placid temper. The mules swam across the river four or five at a time, behind a canoe, each mule having a laso round his neck, which was made fast to the tail of that before him. These intelligent animals enjoyed their swimming very much. The noise of the cacaracha, parrots, macaws, paroquets, &c. adjoining the ferry was almost enough to deafen a person, for all these birds are particularly noisy at day-break. They were so tame, from never having been shot at, that Mr. Cade nearly knocked down two or three of them with stones. The river Bogotá enters the Magdalena about two leagues below the Paso de Flanders, and in two

days you arrive at the town of Honda, where the river is swollen by the periodical rains.

Our baggage and mules having crossed, we left the river at eight o'clock, and stopped to breakfast at a small bamboo cottage at ten. We then slung our cots under some shady trees, and left at three, having forwarded our baggage to the village of Espinal. Our course was now nearly due south, over an immense plain, but the heat was tempered by a pleasant breeze. On this plain we saw several small coveys of partridges running near the road; we had great difficulty to make them rise when we rode after them. Our guide was always anxious to reach our resting-place before dark: it is extremely difficult to find the way over this wild expanse, where you have no regular road, but only a mule-track to follow, and as many cross each other, it would completely puzzle a stranger which to choose. On these parched plains we saw large herds of cattle grazing; they appeared sleek and fat, notwithstanding that the grass had the appearance of being quite burnt up. We

met many of the natives of the provinces of Maraquita and Neyva on horseback and on foot, the women riding in the same way as the men; their countenances and figures were far more prepossessing and athletic than the peasantry in the plain of Bogotá, though their complexions were in general sallow. There are very few negroes in these provinces, and the features of the people are more European than Indian. Their dress was extremely neat and pretty: the women wear a fine cotton cloth over the head, which has generally a border of blue flowers, a white shawl with coloured border, and a scarlet petticoat; shoes and stockings are not in fashion: the men wear a straw-hat, white roana, blue trowsers, and albigators for the feet. The women seldom look at you as they pass, which rather mortified my young secretary, but generally say "Buenos dias, caballeros." The cotton stuffs are manufactured in the province of Neyva.

We arrived at the village of Espinal just before dark, and as I generally sent on a peon to endeavour to get us quarters, we found on our arrival that

the alcalde had provided us a house. Espinal is a neat pretty village, with a population of 1500 persons. We walked about the village with the alcalde, the postmaster, and two or three other great personages: they pointed out to us a considerable number of cottages recently built. The alcalde remarked, he did not despair of living long enough to see Espinal a large town, now that they had driven the Goths (Spaniards) out of the country. This village was burnt to the ground by the Spaniards in 1816. The principal trade of the place consists in straw hats, hung-beef, tallow, and hides, sent in boats down the river Magdalena. Espinal is only one league and a half from that river, over a fine plain, but the peasantry seldom fish, their time being wholly occupied in attending to their large herds of cattle.

On the 21st, at six A M. we left Espinal; in the morning we rode over a very pretty plain, intersected with small woods, and were serenaded by the sweet wild notes of several birds. But our great object was to cross the Andes before the wet season

As we could procure no food for our baggage-mules, we sent them on to Villa de la Purificacion, distant six Spanish leagues and a half. By the advice of the curé we sent on a peon to the intendente with a letter which was given me by the intendente at Bogotá, to procure what was necessary, and another relay of mules. The labouring men are great pedestrians in this province, and will go nearly double the distance of a loaded mule in twenty-four hours. Our friend the curé insisted on our dining with him, and as our quarters were good, neither Mr. Cade nor myself made any great objection to comply with the wishes of our host. We had vermicelli-soup, the olla-podrida, omelette, and a liquid pudding, which was excellent. After this repast, the best we had had since we left Bogotá, we took our siesta for an hour, and bidding farewell to the hospitable priest, we directed our course towards La Purificacion.

At four P.M. we arrived at the river Saldana, which runs in an easterly direction, and enters the Magdalena a few leagues from this place. Here we

were detained for some time before we could get a piraqua to cross; the mules, as usual, swam over. The Saldana is a considerable river, and the water very clear. The boatmen told us they caught plenty of fish in this river, and that now and then an alligator made its appearance from the Magdalena, but that they never laid their eggs here, owing, as they supposed, to the want of sand on the banks. As it was now nearly dusk, we engaged one of the ferrymen to conduct us to La Purificacion, and it was fortunate we did so, as the road, or mule-track, lay across a wide plain; the night dark, so that we did not reach our halting-place till nine in the evening, excessively tired; Mr. Cade so much so that he instantly jumped out of his jack-boots into his cot. The peon which we had sent forward had not yet arrived with the letter for the intendente, and my servants told me they had remained two hours in the street with the baggage-mules, the alcalde refusing to find them quarters, as the peon had not brought the letter. In this predicament a Spaniard, who had been a serjeant in the Columbian service,

after having deserted from Morillo's army, and had now retired on a pension, offered his house, which the servants were glad to accept, and here we remained. The Spaniard spoke a little French, and told me he had served Napoleon two or three years, and his motto was now "Cedunt arma togæ", for he carried on now the business of a tailor! We found strong coffee very refreshing after our day's work. We heard from the servants that the baggage-mules were completely knocked up, and that they had great difficulty in getting them to La Purificacion. Abundance of rain fell this night, to the great joy of the people, who considered it as drops of gold, not having had any for three months. Our landlord's roof was so ill prepared for it, that I was obliged to get up at night, and change the position of my cot. The Spaniard was about forty, and married to a pretty Creole girl of fourteen, whose whole time was employed in playing at cards.

La Purificacion is prettily situate on a small hill, with the river Magdalena flowing at the bottom:

but it was no longer the majestic stream which I navigated in champans. At this time it was particularly low, owing to the long drought. We found La Purificacion intolerably hot, even after the rain. At six in the morning Mr. Cade and myself went to bathe in the Magdalena, in a shallow part, where the alligators could not approach unperceived. We found the water tolerably clear, and in this river completely forgot all our former fatigue. The men of this province are considered excellent soldiers; they are brave, obedient, and determined enemies to the Spaniards, and generally go armed with a long lance. We were in high luck this day; a fat bullock having been killed, we sent our landlord, accompanied by Edle, to purchase part of it, and with the assistance of a fine bagre (a fish I before described), feasted like aldermen.

In the morning we received a visit from Colonel Garcia, whom I had known at Bogotá, and Señor Marquez, Member of Congress for Guayaquil. They were on a visit to a friend who lived in this village. The colonel insisted on my accepting a

straw-hat, very light, with an exceedingly broad brim, to protect the face from the sun, which I found particularly comfortable in my travels, having before worn an English white beaver. Some large fires which were burning in the woods on the opposite side of the Magdalena had a grand appearance at night, the flames extending for a considerable distance.

The alcalde called on me in the morning, and said the peon had only just arrived with the intendente's letter. He made many apologies for having kept my mules and baggage so long in the streets, and promised to have fresh mules ready for us early the next morning, which were to go as far as Neyva; paying for each mule four dollars. A singular circumstance attracted my attention at this place: I observed several persons were marked like pie-bald horses, their bodies and hair on the head being black and white, in distinct spots. They were healthy, and I could not learn from what it originated. We admired the neatness of the bamboo fences round the gardens: they were formed of large bamboo stakes driven into the ground at cer-

tain distances, and slender pieces of cane interwoven between them, tied very tight with ropes made of the bark of trees; they are about five feet and a half high, durable, and prevent pigs and poultry from disturbing the garden. The Spaniard informed us there was a great variety of fish in this part of the Magdalena; among others the white bagre, not so large as the dark striped, la dancella, the potolo, bocca chica, el dorado, and the puso renga, all good fish for the table.

We could not get away from La Purificacion till ten o'clock: the mules did not arrive from the country till nine, and as at this time the heat was great, we made up our minds to be well roasted this day, and I congratulated myself on having my head and face so well protected by the wide-brimmed straw-hat. For six hours we rode over hot sandy plains, without seeing one habitation, and at last brought up at a solitary cottage. Here we found trees loaded with a fruit called cerigas (or cherries), the size of a small plum, with an agreeable acid taste, and the colour of the egg-plum. We were

going to make a desperate attack on the cherry-trees, as our mouths were parched with thirst, but our bachiano (or guide) brought us out from the cottage a jug full of the cherries, which, he said, were wholesome when not heated by the sun, but that if we had eaten the fruit fresh gathered, we should probably have been attacked by dysentery, and he recommended us not to eat many; which advice we prudently followed, for it is a serious affair to be taken ill in these parts, where you have not a medical man sometimes within two or three hundred miles. Passing over these lands we saw a great many large date-trees, and could I only have added a few groups of Arabs and Mamelukes with camels under them, the scene would, I conceive, have been a correct picture of Egypt. We found it a good plan in travelling to carry our hammocks behind us on the mules, for when we arrived at a halting-place to remain during the middle of the day, we had them immediately slung up in the cottages, or between two trees, and could take our siesta comfortably, without the risk of an attack from venomous

reptiles. We were delighted to find that our mortal enemies the mosquitoes were scarcely known in the province of Neyva, which must be owing to the dryness of the country and smallness of the woods: we had not seen a swamp or morass for the last sixty miles.

We arrived at six o'clock at the Indian village of Matayan, the first we had seen since that of Bogotá. The baggage-mules did not arrive till nearly eight, to the great sorrow of the party, who were obliged to wait till the canteen came up. The servants made sad complaints of the badness of the mules, and the perverse disposition of the drivers, but these little inconveniences are unavoidable. We were lodged for the night at the Indian schoolhouse: the chapel and parsonage had been destroyed by fire a few months before, the former having been struck by lightning. The Indian cottages at this place appeared very miserable. The schoolmaster did all in his power to procure us whatever we wanted, which was fire for cooking, and eggs. The priest sent us a dozen as a present. We paid

for that number sixpence; the same for a fowl. The Indian alcalde got out of the way when he heard we should remain at Motayan for the night; the schoolmaster informed us this was also his custom when troops passed through the village, and requested me to lay his conduct before the governor of the province of Neyva. The priest and several of the Indians in this village had the goitre. About thirty boys and girls were taught to read at this school, and a few of the most intelligent to write.

Baggage-mules all ready to start on the 24th at seven A.M. With every exertion I could seldom get the baggage off before this hour. The whole of the day we travelled over a very rugged wild country, varied here and there with forests of date-trees, and tolerably well watered by clear rivulets, all steering their course to do homage to the great Magdalena, on the banks of which we arrived in the afternoon, and crossed it in a canoe, the mules swimming. We saw another detachment of volunteers, marching to the NW. and several crosses

by the side of the road, where people had been buried, but only two Indian cottages the whole day. Our baggage-mules kept up well; the baggage, which requires some experience to arrange properly, had been more equally divided, and a nice breeze cooled the atmosphere. We remained for a night at a cottage on the banks of the Magdalena, and had our cots fixed under some palm-trees close to the river, but we were punished for selecting this situation, by being tormented the whole night by sand-flies. We bathed early in the morning, and hearing that the alligators were small, and seldom attacked any one, indulged in a short swimming for the first time. Several large rafts passed early down the river from Neyva, laden with cocoa.

Off at seven A.M. and got to Villa Vieja at eleven to breakfast. Our baggage did not come up till one; two of the mules had taken a wrong turn, and were lost for some time: we therefore decided on remaining for the night at Villa Vieja, observing the village was extremely neat and clean, and the

alcalde almost officious in supplying all our wants. The priest of the parish visited us in his canonicals. He mentioned having only resided there during three weeks: he arrived in a bad state of health, which was already nearly re-established by the salubrious air of the place. We here observed a brown bird catching flies and insects off the belly of a cow which was lying down. This village was close to the Magdalena. We suffered much this day from the intense heat; the thermometer in the shade was 85°. The public school here appeared to be well conducted, and the children healthy and neat in their persons. We saw another party of fifty recruits, guarded by fifteen men, armed with lances.

At half past six we were all under weigh for the town of Neyva, the capital of the province, and during the morning had a fine rain, most refreshing to men and beasts of our cavalcade. For the first four hours there was not a single dwelling to be seen, although we were approaching Neyva. At last we discovered a cottage at some distance from the road,

on the banks of a clear rivulet, where we stopped to break our fast. The country around had a deep black appearance, but at small distances we crossed some delightful valleys, equally well watered and wooded. These attractions were not sufficient to invite inhabitants. Tiger-cats, deer, and other wild animals ranged unmolested. Our bachiano always carried a timana (or wooden bowl) in the crown of his hat, and when he came to a stream filled it for us to drink. He appeared a connoisseur in water, by the air of satisfaction with which he told us in particular places, "aqua muy fresca" (very fine water).

After breakfast I walked alone in the valley, and laid down under the shade of a large tree, close to the rivulet, when my meditations were interrupted by the rustling of the bushes a little above me, and on turning my head, I perceived a fine fat buck, not more distant than ten or twelve yards, walking leisurely out of the thicket, and coming to the stream to drink. On perceiving me lying on the ground, he stopped and looked at me, then trotted

back into the cover: he had small sharp horns without any branches. If I had had my gun it is probable I should have provided some venison for the party. In the plain above the valley were many rabbits, and several coveys of partridges.

When we were about a league from Neyva, the governor of the province, Colonel Vincente Banegas and his staff, and my friend Dr. Barrero, came out to meet us, and we found a good house in the square, and an abundant supper provided for us and our servants, and forage for the mules. Dr. Barrero had come purposely to meet us from his estate, which lies to the SE. of Neyva, distant about two days' journey. It was also his intention to accompany us on the road for four or five days from Neyva to La Plata, where his family had formerly resided. The doctor, who had been brought up to the bar, was at this time one of the members of the congress for the province of La Neyva, and had also been twice governor of it, in which high situation he had given general satisfaction to all classes of the inhabitants, and was deservedly a very popular public man, and

a most determined enemy to the Spaniards, although his father was a native of Spain. The doctor was remarkably fond of the English, and I was told, that when the general congress was assembled at Cucuta, he kept open house for all the English, especially for the British officers in the Columbian service. The energy, activity and courage which Dr. Barrero displayed in rousing the inhabitants from their then long apathy, and pointing out to them the oppressive conduct of the Spaniards, had rendered him so obnoxious to them, that the Spanish governor of the province of Neyva offered a considerable reward for his head, and the doctor pointed out to us in the square the place where he had been burnt in effigy by the Spaniards. He was afterwards taken prisoner, and sent to work for life on the fortifications of Carthagena, which was nothing less than sentencing him to a lingering death, as bad food and hard work, in a tropical climate, soon terminate the existence of the strongest man. Barrero was a bon-vivant, fond of his bottle, and, like too many of his countrymen, addicted to play.

But as a companion he was lively and facetious, and to serve a friend would go through fire and water, supposing he could never do enough for one with whom he had formed a friendship. Fortunately for me I was included in this class, and I shall never forget the many obligations he conferred on me during my travels, and afterwards, in procuring for me the arms, head-dresses, animals, beautiful birds, &c. from the tribe of Indios bravos (or uncivilized Indians), called the Achaguas, who live in the mountains, ten or twelve days' journey from Neyva to the eastward, and not far from the sources of the river Meta.

As soon as Dr. Barrero saw me on the road, he made me promise to remain the next day at Neyva, as the Governor was anxious to entertain me, and invite all the civil and military authorities to meet me. To this invitation neither Mr. Cade nor myself had any objection.

The next morning we went early to bathe in the river Magdalena. I made particular enquiries as to the danger of any disturbance from my old ac-

quaintances, the alligators, and found there were none larger than five or six feet in length, and that they never made any attack. On hearing this I determined to swim across the Rio Grande, and we hired a canoe to take us to the left bank of the river, from which I purposed swimming to the right, and to have my clothes brought across in the canoe as soon as Mr. Cade had bathed. On commencing my task I got on very well, until I found myself about half way over, when the current was so strong, that it carried me a great way down the river, without my being able, with all my exertion, to near the opposite shore. I now began (although too late) to repent of my undertaking, and to make matters worse, I fancied every moment that an alligator might by chance have got up the river, and would attack me. So strongly was this idea impressed on my mind, that if I made the least splashing with my feet in striking out, I looked back with alarm, expecting to see the wide jaws of the monster above water. From the great exertions I had made against the current, I began to tire, and looked at the shore

with a longing eye: luckily as I descended the river I was carried into a part where the current was less strong. Here I rested a little, and got what the boxers term second wind, and made renewed exertions to reach the desired banks, which I at last accomplished, much tired, and not feeling the least desire to swim again across the river Magdalena, which took me about half an hour. In all probability, I am the first Englishman who ever swam across this fine river. After waiting some time, Mr. Cade brought me my clothes in the canoe, and congratulated me on having escaped being drowned or devoured by alligators, as he had been rather alarmed when he found I was carried down so far by the current.

On returning to our quarters, we found that our friend had provided an excellent breakfast for us, and reproved me for having swum across the river, saying to himself with a shrug of the shoulders, "los Ingleses son gente muy extraordinacios." After breakfast, I presented to the doctor one of Faden's best maps of South America, in

divisions, retaining that part which designated the territory of Columbia till we should again meet at Bogotá, which I afterwards gave him the February following. He was so delighted at this present, that he flew to me and gave me a close embrace, then hurried off to show the map to the governor and his other friends.

This morning news arrived at Neyva by express, from Bolivar in Peru, that in a very sharp affair of cavalry, the Columbian hussars and lancers had completely discomfited the Spaniards under General Canterac. This news so elated the doctor, that he swore he would get drunk that night, which indeed he did tolerably often, without having any extraordinary event to serve as an excuse. The few troops which were in garrison here turned out and fired a "feu de joie," and in the afternoon we had a display of fire-works, of which some of the rockets were very good. At three o'clock we went to dine with the governor, Colonel Banegas. The colonel had the mark of a desperate sabre-cut across the face, which he had received in an engagement, when he

was left on the field of battle as dead. He was esteemed a very gallant officer, and was for some time on the personal staff of Bolivar, in which situation he served several campaigns against the Spaniards. We met at the dinner the júez politico (or chief judge), the priest, the post-master, a black colonel (who had come from Bogotá to teach the people of the province the regular lance exercise), the doctor, and all the great personages of the place.

The dinner, as usual, was most abundant; a turkey of a prodigious size graced the table, and an immense bottle of aquadiente (or spirits), besides different sorts of Spanish wine. We had a very merry entertainment, and drank to the continued success of Bolivar's arms in Peru. I believe the doctor fulfilled his promise, as I had great difficulty in getting him off from La Neyva late the next morning. I found out afterwards that he had been gambling the whole night with the governor, the priest of the parish, and two or three other friends. The doctor told me that on an average he smoked forty cigars a day the whole year through; one third of the cigar

he always threw away, as he said it had then lost its flavour; and the indulgence of smoking to this excess cost him 300 dollars annually, which shows how much tobacco must be consumed by the population of Columbia, and that the tobacco factories ought, if well managed, to produce a large revenue to the government.

In our house in Neyva we were much annoyed by scorpions. We found a large one in the inside of a mule's saddle, which had nearly stung one of our servants. The doctor brought me this morning a timana (wooden bowl), which was particularly handsome, twelve skins of tiger and water-cats, which latter are nearly the size of a rabbit; their skins are beautifully white, with brown stripes, and as soft as satin. One skin was that of a very large tiger. The wooden bowls are made at the small town of Timana, whence they take this appellation, and are adorned in the most tasteful manner with flowers of very brilliant colours; a high varnish is laid over the whole, which the Indians of the province of Timana extract from a

tree: the ground on which the flowers are painted is a deep red. The doctor had his name put round the bowl in a very ingenious manner. These bowls were the handsomest piece of workmanship I had seen in Columbia, and the flowers were a close copy from nature. They may be used with hot water without injury. El Señor Doctor announced to me, with a joyful satisfaction, that he was going to take unto himself a second and a very young wife: (the doctor was about fifty.) He requested me to go round by his house; but as this would have been two days' journey out of our road, I declined the invitation, wishing to cross the Andes as soon as possible.

The province of Neyva, to which is added the small one of Timana to the SE., contains about 70,000 inhabitants. Considerable quantities of gold-dust are procured in Timana by washing the sands of the small rivers, some of which was brought to me to purchase. Much excellent cocoa is grown in this province, on the bank of the river Magdalena, and sent down in bálsas (or rafts). The ap-

pearance of the peasantry throughout this province was very prepossessing, the men being tall, well made, and neat in their dress, with noble and open countenances; and when armed with their long lance, on horseback, they are likewise formidable enemies: they hold all Spaniards in abhorrence. Here you may buy a fat sheep for a dollar, a goat for two shillings, and a good-sized kid for one.

The post arrived from Bogotá just before I left Neyva. I was sadly disappointed at receiving no letters from England; I had not had one of a later date than the 5th of May. I know of no pleasure in a foreign land equal to that of hearing from friends and relations, particularly when at so great a distance from them: we were now about 1600 miles in the interior of South America.

I positively refused the doctor's request of remaining another day at Neyva, and, after using great exertions, managed to get him off at ten o'clock, mounted on his gray horse, with a black servant on a mule, carrying before him an old French gun, loaded, that the doctor might take a shot if any wild

turkeys or partridges should be near the road. We had procured another relay of mules at Neyva, much better than those we hired at La Purificacion, and the hombre de confiánza understood his business well. It was impossible to help smiling as we looked at the doctor, who was altogether in his travelling-dress on horseback as comical a figure as can be imagined. Fancy to yourself a man with large black prominent eyes, blood-shot, with rather a wild expression, aquiline nose of considerable dimensions, mouth not very small, with a cigar constantly in it, large black whiskers, sharp chin, a long face, and you have the doctor's appearance. Sitting up all night drinking and gaming had not improved his physiognomy: at this time he might have represented "el caballero de la triste figura." He wore a huge straw-hat, with Columbian cockade, short jacket of blue and white striped cotton, light blue trowsers, jack-boots with immense spurs; a long French dragoon-sword, with brass basket hilt, fastened to a waist-belt, was dangling on one side of his horse, a brace of horse-pistols sticking out of his

holsters, a powder-horn slung over his shoulders, and occasionally the old French silver-mounted gun carried before him on the pummel of the saddle. I must not omit amongst the doctor's accoutrements a third pocket-pistol, the muzzle of which was frequently applied to his mouth. The gray horse was certainly a good animal, but as thin as Rosinante. The doctor's black servant, Candela, was nearly as droll a figure as his master, and was always at his heels, either with a light for his cigar, or to hand him the gun.

Although I was far from well, we jogged on merrily, chatting with El Señor Doctor, who was always lively, and anxious to give every information respecting this part of Columbia, until we arrived at a solitary cottage three leagues from Neyva, on the banks of El Rio Frio (the cold river). Our friend proposed that we should take our breakfast here, and enjoy a siesta afterwards, which he was anxious to do, from having passed all the preceding night in gambling; and I suspect had been successful, as I observed his waistcoat and trowsers pockets were

well lined with doubloons and dollars, which he took great pleasure in chinking, and listening to their musical sounds. At this house we met the priest of a village called Campo Alegre, who was going to Neyva to write his letters, which would leave that place in the night on their way to Bogotá. I found the curé, who was a man about thirty, very intelligent and communicative. He informed me that the source of the Magdalena was in the Paramo of Las Papas, eight days' journey from the small town of Timana. He asked me whether in passing through La Purificacion I had tasted a small delicious fish called ringa, which is caught in the river Chicki, near that town, and is not found in any other stream of Columbia. He told me that small pearls, not of a good colour, were found in the shell of a small tortoise in the same river.

At this place we had a fine view of the Guila Mountains, whose summits are at all seasons covered with snow: these mountains are six days' journey, not far from the valley of Cauca, to the westward. The priest said the situation of his village was quite

charming, on account of which it derived its name of Campo Alegre; there was a fine clear stream winding round it, well stocked with fish, but he complained much of the idleness of his parishioners, who, when successful in fishing, would remain for two or three days together lounging in their hamacas, swinging from one side of the room to the other, and that nothing but hunger could rouse them from this apathy and inactivity. The jaquars (or tigers) he said were very destructive among the cattle in the part of the country where he lived, frequently coming down in the night, and carrying off the mules and horned cattle. A male and female tiger, the former very large, had been taken in his parish, in a sort of trap, about three weeks before, after having done great mischief. The trap for the jaquars is made as follows: a small plot of ground, in a retired situation, is enclosed in a circular form with strong stakes, sometimes three deep, and of considerable height, to prevent the tigers breaking through, leaving a door-way for the tiger to enter; above this aperture is suspended a large

plank of wood, which, by communicating with one on the ground, falls down, and closes the entrance as soon as the tiger treads on it. A live pig or sheep is fastened in the centre of the inclosure as a bait, and the villagers take it by turns to watch in a tree at night near the spot, who give the alarm when their enemy is caught; they then despatch him with fire-arms and lances. A trap was at this time set for a large male tiger, which in the last two months had killed fifty head of cattle; but the beast was remarkably wary, and had avoided the snare laid for his destruction.

Sometimes the farmers and peasants, armed with lances, and accompanied by their dogs, meet together to destroy the jaquars. As soon as he is brought to bay by the dogs, he places himself on his haunches to make fight, and when he strikes a dog with his paw, the poor animal is generally killed. The lance-men move forward, and take up their positions in front of the tiger, their lances placed so as to receive him when he makes a spring, keeping their eyes stedfastly fixed on his, and when they

perceive he is much exhausted from fighting with the dogs, they irritate him, in order to induce him to spring on them, which he does in a semicircular line, like a cat, roaring tremendously at the same time: the lancer keeps his body bent, and grasping his lance with both hands, one end rested on the ground, by his dexterity and quickness generally contrives to receive the tiger on the point of his lance; then the other hunters rush in, and soon dispatch him with their lances. Should the hunter unfortunately fail in receiving the tiger on his lance, his situation is desperate, and in all probability he falls a victim to the enraged beast before he can be assisted. This rarely occurs, but in such a case his only resource is in his manchette (or long knife), with which he endeavours to stab the tiger in the belly.

Colonel Bario Nuevo of the Artillery related to me an anecdote of a tiger-hunter, who lives on his estate on the banks of the Magdalena, not far from Mariquita, who, when the tiger made the spring, only wounded him slightly with the lance,

vented Mr. Cade and myself from closing our eyes during the whole of it.

We left Elhobo on Wednesday, at half past six, A.M. and reached El Aneon at eleven, a country-house belonging to Señor Fernandez Mendez, a relation of Dr. Borrero. El Aneon was charmingly situated on a gentle eminence, about a quarter of a mile from the river Magdalena, in the midst of some large grass grounds, ornamented with fine old trees. The proprietor of this estate was eighty years of age, but a remarkably fine old man. He had by his second wife, a handsome woman of thirty-six, five young children, the youngest fourteen months old. Here we found, owing to the good offices of our friend the doctor, that the fatted calf had been killed for us, and the host and hostess welcomed us in a friendly manner, and begged that we would remain at El Aneon two or three days to rest ourselves, before we undertook our journey over the Andes. This country-house was the largest, and by far the best we had been in since our departure from Bogotá. After

dinner, the doctor proposed our going out to shoot, as the woods on the estate were well stocked with wild boars and deer. The doctor and myself took our guns, while Mr. Cade, a brother of our hostess, and a negro slave, accompanied us to beat for game. We walked gently down to the river, as the lady's brother thought it probable we should find some wild boars wallowing in the mud on the banks of it. This proved to be the case, but they winded us before we discovered them, and took to the river to swim across: we immediately ran to the banks, and gave them a volley of three barrels, loaded with slugs and swan-shot, firing at their heads; one was wounded, but he contrived to get across, although not so fast as his companions, and we saw them all scramble up a very steep bank, and enter the thicket. These wild boars are esteemed very delicate food for the table, and are not so large or dark-coloured as those in Germany. We found the fresh tracks of several deer, but did not see them.

On returning home, through a large chocolate plantation, the slave pointed out to us a snake coiled

up, and apparently asleep. I told the doctor I should like to have a shot at him, which I did with my left barrel, in which I had swan-shot, and only wounded him in the tail. The moment I fired he sprang up, and looked round and espied us; on which he came directly towards us, sweeping along, his head erect, and about three feet from the ground. We all now began to be alarmed; and the doctor ordered us to retire a few yards behind a large tree, while he advanced to give him the contents of two more barrels, which movement was immediately executed; and when the snake was distant about ten yards, the doctor and myself fired, and cut him nearly in two, each barrel being loaded with seven or eight small slugs. We then shouted victory, and Mr. Cade and the rest of our party who had retreated, being unarmed, came up to us. We examined our fallen enemy, and it proved to be a snake called the aques, from having a black cross like an X all along its back. This snake is considered by the Creoles one of the boldest and most venomous in South America. He measured about

six feet and a half in length, and was as thick as my wrist. Had I been aware that this had been so bold and venomous a snake, I certainly should not have disturbed his siesta. The doctor stated that several persons in the province had lost their lives from the bite of the aques; and that he had seen them considerably larger. We saw some wild turkeys, but found them shy. The grounds where the chocolate-trees grew were nicely irrigated, and they had a quantity of cocoa-nuts on them. The cocoa grown on this estate is reported to have a fine flavour, and fetches a high price in the market. The trees were planted in triangles, and at a considerable distance from each other. Shade is absolutely necessary for the thriving of the cocoa-tree; it is therefore always planted with other trees, usually the banana. The cocoa-tree has many enemies in worms, insects, deer, monkeys, parrots, the great ara (or macaw), &c. Gold-dust is found here, and we observed several places where the slaves had been washing for it.

Señor F. Mendez shewed me the skin of a large

red leopard, which they had killed the week before: their dogs drove it up into a tree, where they contrived to laso him, and then despatched him with their lances. This leopard devoured from thirty to forty sheep in a few weeks. Just as I was jumping into bed, I saw a large scorpion coiled up asleep between the sheets. I immediately ran to Señor F. Mendez, to consult him on the best mode of catching it. He seized it with the tongs, but the scorpion escaped from him, and to our great disappointment contrived to get into a hole. I could scarcely sleep the whole night, fancying that another of these reptiles might pay me a visit. La Doña de la Casa (hostess) had been stung by a scorpion about three weeks before: she told me that she almost fainted away after being stung, and that for four-and-twenty hours afterwards she had a severe head-ache, and loss of appetite. The part stung should frequently be bathed with salt and water, and cooling medicine given to the patient.

With great difficulty we got away early the next morning; our worthy and venerable host making us

promise to return to Bogotá this way, and wished to persuade us not to go over the Quindio mountains, where, he said, I should be obliged to undergo great hardship and fatigue in travelling. We once more crossed the Magdalena at the foot of Domingo Aries, two leagues and a half from El Aneon. A short distance below this the river Pais enters the Magdalena, and is nearly as large as the river that deprives it of its name. We breakfasted at a house called El Remolino, close to the river Pais, whose water was very cool and clear.

We now found that we were ascending considerably, and that the climate was cooler by three or four degrees. The features of the country were beginning to wear a different appearance, being more mountainous, well covered with wood, rendering the scenery romantic. We observed several pyramids of earth six or seven feet in height, which had been thrown up by the large black ant; they appeared as if the earth had been baked. At the ford were the ruins of a small chapel, dedicated to La Señora del Amparo; but this saint had been since removed to the parish of

Epital, as the priest of that place soon found that a considerable revenue might be derived from having in his possession this holy personage. This virgin was found by a man in the woods; and they attribute to her all sorts of miracles. The river Pais is very rapid, and has its source in the Paramo of Sierra Dientia, which mountains are inhabited by an Indian nation called Los Paites; they speak very little Spanish.

This day the doctor, who was our guide, took us over some tremendous precipices, where, if our mules had missed their footing, we must inevitably have been dashed to pieces. In some places I shut my eyes, for it made me quite giddy to look to the right and left; the doctor calling this road jocosely "El Camino Real de los Godos" (the Royal Road of the Goths). To make us some amends for losing his way, the doctor shot for us a large fat wild turkey. It was a capital scene to see the doctor creeping among the bushes to get a shot at the turkey, and notwithstanding that his old French gun missed fire about ten times, the bird remained quietly perched

in the tree. Between five and six in the afternoon we reached a farm-house called Monteleone, pleasantly situated on a tongue of land, with a fine view down a large valley. The owner, a respectable man, told me that he had only returned to this estate a few months, having been absent eight years, to avoid the Spaniards, who had nearly robbed and plundered him of every thing, and even carried away the doors and windows of his house. His wife seemed a notable woman, and his two daughters, under twenty, were pretty girls. We found that the wild turkey, stewed down with rice, and some good strong punch, put the doctor in excellent spirits. Each morning at starting, I directed the cook to give the doctor a bumper of old Jamaica rum, to keep the cold out of his stomach.

This day we heard the micos (or little monkeys) whistling in the woods for the first time, but the foliage was so thick that I could not see one. They are very sagacious and cunning, particularly when engaged in plundering the plantations of cocoa, plantain, rice, and fruit, &c. On these occasions

they have their scouts or videttes in trees, ready to give the alarm if an enemy should approach; and the doctor said that they have been seen to chastise these sentries for negligence on their posts. Our landlord told us that a party of these micos had come down to a field of maize, where some men were at work, and had stolen all their provisions, which they had concealed under some bushes for their dinner. We observed that the cattle in these mountains were larger and finer than those bred in the plains, which may be accounted for by the former being less tormented by flies and other insects, and their grazing and feeding comfortably continuing undisturbed. Very large asses are kept in this country for the breed of mules; they are well fed with maize when young, to make them grow large and strong. We observed a curious contrivance: large inland shells made into a sort of necklace, and put round the necks of the calves and sheep, the noise of which prevents the condours and vultures from attacking them. The farmers destroy these birds by poisoning

the carcase of a sheep with the cucana poison. We slept in the corridor outside. The house had been used as a barrack for troops passing to the south, during the absence of the owner, and was still tenanted by bugs and fleas. We found sand-flies in this place which were rather troublesome. An officer and a party of recruits from Popayan on their way to Neyva, arrived in the evening with the usual escort; they cooked and slept for the night under a large tree near the house: I invited the officer to sup with me, which he declined. Notwithstanding that sentries were placed round the tree, one Indian recruit contrived to escape in the night.

We left this place betimes in the morning. I rode the doctor's gray horse, the backs of both my mules being sore, owing to our riding with English saddles instead of those of the country: the English saddle is too wide in the tree for the back of a mule, and from its motion galls it. The muleteers washed the sore backs with soft soap and aquadiente, well mixed together. We breakfasted at the small Indian village of Pyrcole, four leagues from Menti-

leone. It certainly deserved its name of miserable, for all the influence and activity of our friend the doctor could not procure for us a fowl or an egg. In approaching we ascended a very steep mountain, and on arriving at a small plain on its summit, we had a noble view of a fine fertile valley, through which the river Pais was winding with a hasty and precipitous course, and on the right was seen in the distance the Indian village of Carneceria (or the slaughter-house), so named by the Spaniards in consequence of a great many having been taken prisoners at that place and killed, about a century before, by the Ardequais Indians. The Spaniards had been taken prisoners in a successful attack which the Indians made on the small town of La Plata, which they took and burnt to the ground. From Pyrcole to La Plata is four Spanish leagues and a half. We passed through fine Alpine scenery, and the valley of La Plata is quite a little Paradise, the climate excellent, and the thermometer on an average throughout the year not being more than 70°. The small river La Plata winding its course through the

valley had exactly the appearance of a fine trout stream in South Wales.

In our road from Pyrcole to La Plata we passed through the hacienda (or estate) of the brother of Dr. Borrero, well stocked with cattle. He was gone to Neyva; he held the situation of postmaster at La Plata. In the woods of these mountains milk-white deer are sometimes killed; two tame ones had been sent as a present to the Governor at Popayan a few months before. Just opposite the town of La Plata we crossed on foot a curious bamboo bridge of one arch thrown over the river La Plata, whose waters dash and foam under it amongst huge rocks and stones. The sides of the bridge are so steep as to form rather an acute angle with each other, and the ascent and descent are so great that small pieces of bamboo are placed across at short intervals to fix the feet in. I was told that Colonel Mackintosh rode over this bridge at full speed when he made an attack on the Spaniards posted in La Plata, a thing scarcely credible, when you look at it. The doctor and several of the inhabitants